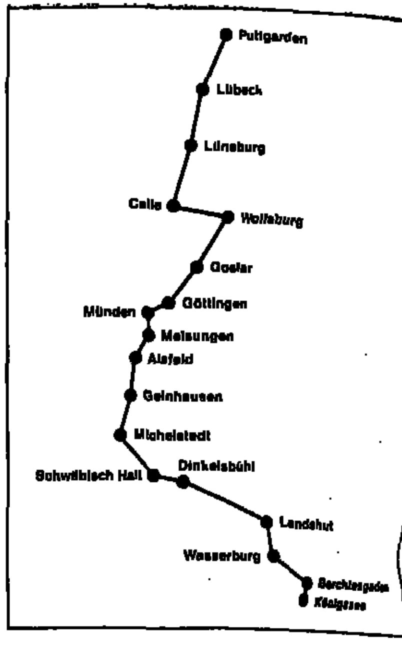
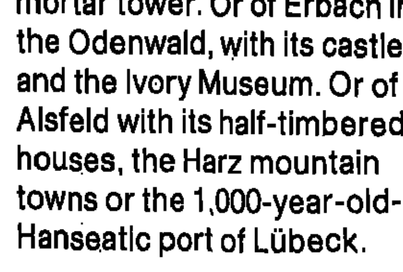
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The German Holiday Route – from the Alps to the Baltic





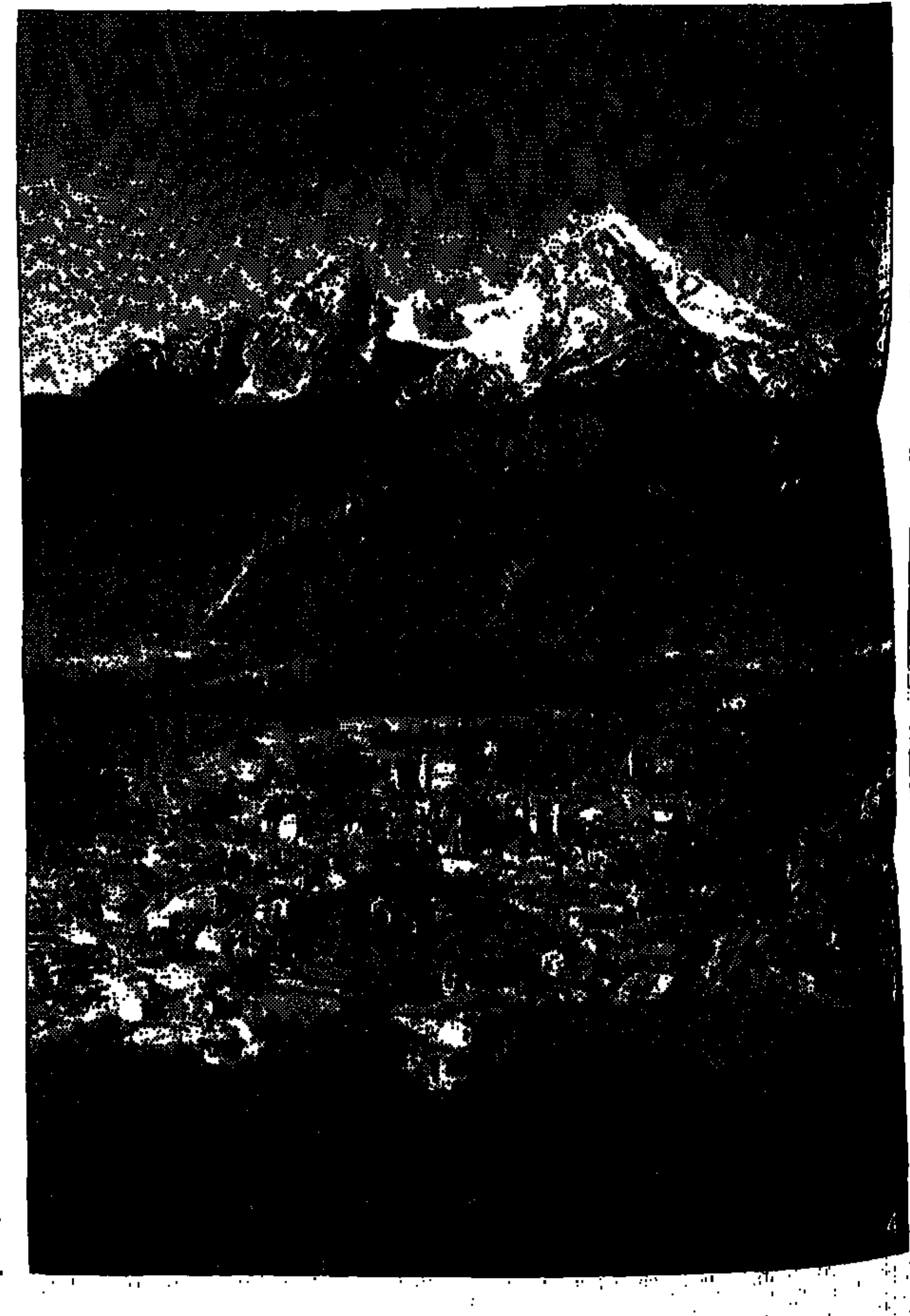
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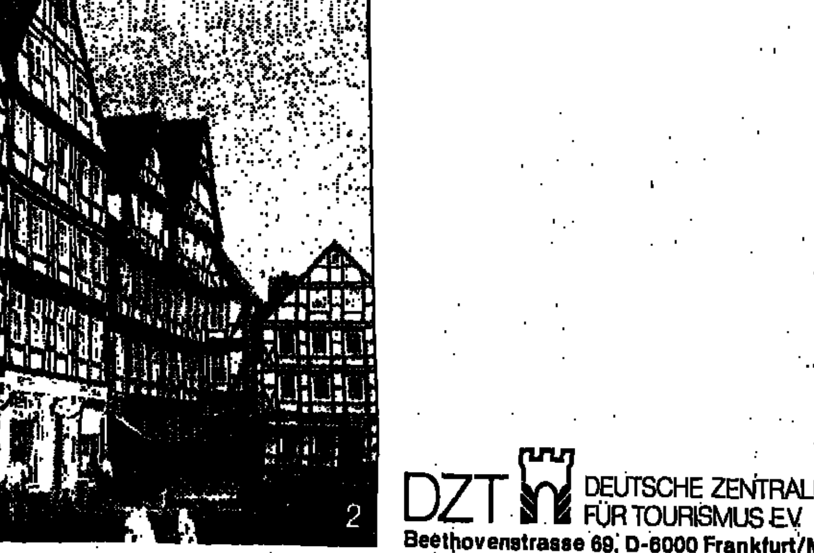
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A European House: looking behind the metaphor



The Bonn government accepted Moscow's concept of a "common European house" when it signed a joint declaration last month. This was in the context of a "European peace order."

When Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher went to Washington, he confirmed Bonn's attitude to the "house" and the "peace order."

But as long as words, names or metaphors are used to denote (or obfuscate) reality, they really need to be examined.

Such expressions, however vague, do convey characteristic significance.

Henry Kissinger had his "peace structure". This was open to broad interpretation. It merely set out to establish pragmatic supports for peace which could stand up to the permanent pressure of unresolved conflicts.

Bonn's "peace order" has a much more fundamental character. It associates peace in Europe with a just solution of conflicts.

The Soviet vision of a European house may sound warmer and appeal to the heart, but its emphasis of European common ground is an attempt to drive a wedge between Europe and the two North American powers.

The Bonn diplomacy may regard the qualification of the common European house with its own concept of the "European peace order" as a success.

Soviet negotiators, on the other hand, could see things the other way round.

In reality the difference between the two positions has been blurred rather than clarified.

This was reflected in the use of the term "house order" by Mikhail Gorbachov during his press conference in Bonn.

Asked about the implications of his idea of European unity for a divided Germany he replied: "The current situation was produced at a certain time. This is reality.

"Both the Helsinki process and other processes develop on the basis of these realities. Consequently, we are committed to time, the current time.

"Why does this situation exist in Europe? "We hope that time will solve, will decide the situation."

A further question related to the compatibility of the Berlin Wall with the interior decoration of the all-European house.

Gorbachov said that the Berlin Wall could not be seriously viewed as the only obstacle to the construction of the European house.

He stressed that many problems would have to be solved in order to build the house in the interests of all peoples.

Their preferences, their traditions and their history should be respected and conditions for mutually beneficial cooperation with equal rights created. "Nothing under the sun is eternal," he added.

There are enough conceivable reasons in the Soviet Union, in Eastern Europe and in the GDR for such an evasive reply.

What counts is that Gorbachov presents the division of Germany as the "reality" of an objective "history", which the Soviet Union and the Germans should respect.

Furthermore, he entrusts the construction of the European house to "time" instead of to architects.

Unlike his predecessors Gorbachov did not say to the Germans "never at all", but "perhaps in a hundred years" (during the visit to Moscow by Bonn President, Richard von Weizsäcker).

The joint declaration states that there should also be room for the Americans and Canadians in the common European house.

This clarification was undoubtedly a prerequisite for Bonn to be able to approve of the declaration as a whole. But has Gorbachov really accepted this aspect?

During the press conference he said in a lengthy reply that the construction of the European house presupposes the active involvement of the Americans and Canadians.

He added, however, that the house could only be satisfactory if military confrontation is decisively reduced and that this must "logically lead to a situation in which there can be no foriegn troops on foreign territory."

Yet how does the fact that this "common house" is not related to values and ideas but to something physical, the ground, "logically" fit in with the "active involvement" of the North Americans as hovering spirits which do not touch the ground?

In the final analysis, what is meant is the ousting of the only western big power from the continent so as to give the Soviet Union an option on the role of landlord in the European house.

This is unlikely to happen, since the Western Europeans do not want such a development and the Eastern Europeans want to be able to determine their own future. It is astonishing just how stubbornly the Soviet Union, sometimes in extremely roundabout ways, repeatedly tries to attain the same objective.

The concept of the "European house" was not coined by Mikhail Gorbachov. He adopted it from Brezhnev, who already used the metaphor in Bonn in 1981.

The underlying idea dates back even further. Before the CSCE process began the Soviet Union pursued the project of a "European security conference" for almost twenty years with the twofold objective of obtaining approval from the West for the "realities" the Soviet Union had created during and after the war and excluding the Americans from this process.

The Nato countries were only willing to come to Helsinki after agreement was reached to include the Americans and the Canadians.

Under Gorbachov Soviet foreign policy has changed in many respects.

Gorbachov's visit to Bonn, however, revealed that the friendly and waving man from Moscow is continuing the basic line of Soviet policy towards Germany and Europe.

Admittedly, with greater flexibility and imaginativeness but as single-mindedly as ever.

Günther Gillessen

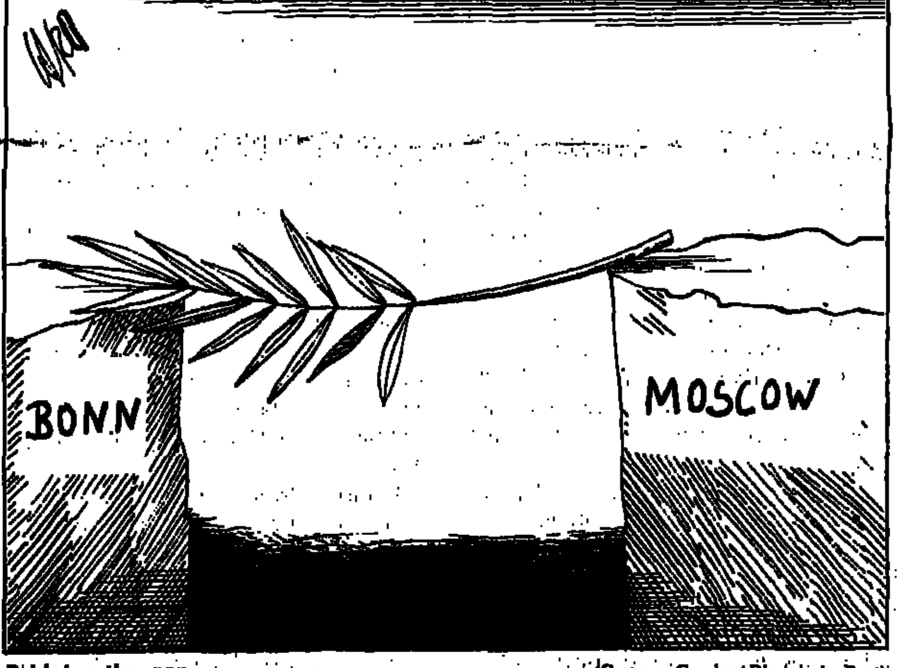
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 July 1989)



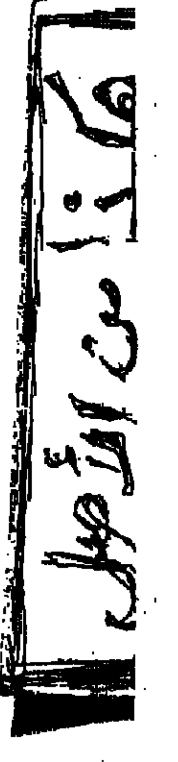
Meeting in Spain

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl (left) with Spain's Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at the European Community summit in Madrid. Story page 2. (Photo: AP)

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Bridging the gap. (Cartoon: Candea/Rheinische Post)



■ EUROPE

A breakthrough at the summit in Madrid

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The Madrid summit was a breakthrough for the European Community in its endeavour to set up an economic and monetary union.

Although the points have now been switched and the train is on the right tracks it is still uncertain how long the journey will take and which obstacles have yet to be negotiated.

Will the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher continue to apply the brakes to the project or even jump off the train while it is in motion?

Such uncertainties seem less relevant following the summit. In Madrid the Community managed to prevent the much-feared split, even though Mrs Thatcher, who is known for her obstinacy, had previously announced that she would oppose the plans forwarded by the other Community members.

She claimed that she would on no account accept the three-stage plan for an economic and monetary union drawn up by the commission of central bank governors and financial experts led by the president of the European Commission, Jacques Delors.

At the summit, however, she accepted the Delors report as the timetable for the journey towards the Community's monetary policy future.

Furthermore, she signed the summit resolution that the first stage of this process of unification should already begin on 1 July, 1990 — despite the fact that the Delors plan envisages that the British pound must then join the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System by the end of 1990 at the latest.

Mrs Thatcher also went along with the decision that the European Council should commission the preparatory work to a government conference of the Community member states.

This was a further aspect she intended preventing just a few days before the summit.

The Community heads of state and government leaders would like this government conference to convene as soon as the first stage of the Delors plan has begun, which means mid-1990 at the earliest.

There are hopes that the Community will then adopt the amendments to the Treaty of Rome giving the Community far-reaching powers in the monetary policy field.

The Madrid summit has successfully prevented the isolation of the otherwise so recalcitrant Margaret Thatcher.

Does this mean that the Iron Lady suddenly lost her bite in the heat of the Spanish capital? Not in the least.

The eleven male leaders at the summit had to make some pretty significant concessions to London.

Although the train is on its way its speed will be a lot slower than many desire.

The Madrid resolutions on the setting up of a government conference contain a number of woolly passages, which could lead to delays. In all probability the European Community will move closer to the goal of an economic and monetary union at a guarded and slow pace.

This need not be the wrong approach, since the essence of national economic policy is at stake: the incisive shift of powers and the renunciation of a large part of national sovereignty.

This development will result in a different Community, a different Europe.

A great deal of persuasive work will be needed along the way — not only with respect to Margaret Thatcher, but also with respect to the economic experts in Community member states whose national narrow-mindedness *makes them blind to the internationalised character of national economies.*

National decisions alone no longer determine the fate of individual countries.

The European Council, therefore, is quite right to give the British Prime Minister — and the more apprehensive critics of the Community idea — time to adjust to the new situation.

This patience, however, should not go so far as to allow Margaret Thatcher to repeatedly raise the same questions and to keep on prompting the same discussions.

This tactical approach would give her an opportunity to defer resolutions indefinitely and impede progress in the Community.

It was undoubtedly clever in political terms in Madrid to avoid the "ideological" conflict with Margaret Thatcher and not to force her to nail colours to the mast.

However, the closer the Community moves to the attainment of its objective the more inevitable the crucial question becomes for Mrs Thatcher.

Her idea of a Europe with a big liberal internal market, of a Europe of industry and of business, of a Europe without common basic social rights, without a political voice and without the renunciation of national sovereignty is unacceptable to the citizens of Europe.

The European Council has moved in the direction of a new and united Europe in Madrid.

At the next summit, in December this year in France, the Community will have to adopt the Community charter of basic social rights and pave the way for the next steps towards an economic and monetary union — with or without Margaret Thatcher.

Thomas Gack

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 28 June 1989)

Spain takes the chance to show its Euro credentials

Extremely favourable circumstances are needed for any country to be spectacularly successful during its six-month presidency of the European Community.

Spain has every reason to be satisfied with its performance; no other government could have furthered the European cause to a greater extent during the last half-year.

The chairmanship of the European Community (or to be more precise: the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers and its subordinate committees) is an opportunity for all governments to demonstrate its European commitment and political negotiating skills.

Successes are generally presented as the achievement of the chairing government, even if some of them are "easy pickings" since the decisions in question are long overdue.

Vice versa, not even the most zealous presidency can achieve a great deal if a problem is not yet ready for a decision or if there is no will to compromise.

The presidential successor may be more fortunate, especially if it previously played a decisive role in the prevention of agreement on a certain issue.

Once a country chairs the Community it finds it easier to "change its spots."

Spain, for example, had considerable misgivings about the tightening of exhaust emission provisions for small cars in the European Community.

As Council chairman, therefore, the Minister responsible for this field had to make a special effort.

If he had deferred the decision he would have been free to again adopt a tougher line.

On the other hand, chairmanship of the Community is also a means of steering the discussion in the Council and in the expert committees and concentrating on one's own "favourite topics."

Occasionally, member countries take advantage of this situation to line their own pockets.

According to observers in Brussels Spain only made moderate use of this possibility. The scope for such manoeuvres is pretty limited anyway.

Community chairmanship was the first major opportunity for the Spanish government to distinguish itself in the Community.

This was no easy task for a country with a young democratic tradition and an administration which has not yet gathered a great deal of international experience.

Spain's Prime Minister, Felipe González, already sent a whole army of young bureaucrats to the European Commission in Brussels for practical training months before Spain assumed the presidency of the *Community.*

Althogether, roughly 1,800 *diplomats* and ministry officials are *reputed* to have been entrusted with the tasks of Community chairmanship.

The overwhelmingly young Spanish "team" impressed *their* Community colleagues.

Their activity was described as "committed and very efficient."

To some the youthful technocrats seemed like the "Prussians of the south."

During the preparation of the "Ecofin" Council of Economics and Finance Ministers one German *official* groaned that the presidency *worked* at a "tremendous pace."

What is more, a surprisingly large number of Spanish officials speak a foreign language fluently.

Right from the outset Prime Minister González, who is well versed in questions relating to the Community (he was a student at the Europe College in Bruges), focused his efforts on making headway along the road to a European economic and monetary union.

His second main field of activity was to try and make the "social dimension" of the emerging European internal market more popular.

Right from the start, however, final resolutions were not to be expected in either of these two fields.

Nevertheless, it does look as if the enthusiasm was slightly overexaggerated in Spain itself.

The impression was *given in* the country's press that *half* of the world was, for a short while at least, being governed from Madrid.

Spain did manage to set in motion the discussion on the Delors report on the economic and monetary union.

Although the other Finance Ministers were more cautious than their colleague Carlos Solchaga they did, during an informal meeting, support the proposal to begin with preparations for the first stage of the project.

The surprising resolution to already integrate the peseta into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System showed just how seriously

Continued on page 3

Towards monetary union

The ultimate goal of a plan drawn up by a commission of experts led by the president of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, is a genuine economic and monetary union for the European Community.

The Delors plan envisages *inter alia* the setting up of a European central bank system and the creation of a single Community currency.

The three-stage plan was one of the main topics on the agenda of the Community summit in Madrid.

In a first stage (from 1 July, 1990) the 12 member states are to pursue closer economic and monetary policy coordination.

The European Monetary System (EMS) and its exchange rate mechanism are to be strengthened by the inclusion of all Community currencies.

Community members are to liberalise their capital markets. A new Treaty of Rome is to be drawn up.

In a second stage the new Treaty will enable the gradual transfer of sovereign rights in the fields of monetary and fiscal policies from the goverments of individual member states to Brussels.

A "European central bank system" is planned in the monetary field. During a third phase this system will make preparations for a common European currency. The system will act as the Community's central bank.

The culmination of this plan, which does not yet have a fixed timetable, will be the setting up of a genuine economic and monetary union.

Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher fears that participation in the EMS mechanism will restrict her room to manoeuvre in the monetary policy field.

dpa/vwd

(Bremer Nachrichten, 27 June 1989)

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■ INTERNATIONAL

The East Bloc and that elusive freedom

Frankfurter Allgemeine
ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

The economic and political changes in East Bloc countries may some day rank as epoch-making events of world history.

As shown by the massacres in China, attempts to transform Communist systems always run the risk of being brutally repressed.

Today, however, it is more difficult than ever to sustain economic impoverishment and political oppression — both features of most totalitarian regimes.

The world has become smaller. Electronic communication makes it increasingly difficult for countries to live in isolation.

To be successful they need high technology, which in turn presupposes an intelligent and hence politically aware work force.

In the free countries of the western hemisphere it is an acknowledged insight of liberal economics and economic policy that an economy's achievement potential is based on competition, on the initiative of individuals who are free to decide and on the ability of free markets to find the respectively best solutions for even the most difficult of problems.

For a long time Marxist-Leninist economic ideology was inaccessible for such insights.

The growing realisation by many Communist countries of the fact that organising the economy along market economy lines can help improve the situation, in particular the supply situation, should not be viewed as a sign of reverence for the once so hated capitalist system.

On the contrary. It is rooted in a kind of new uninhibitedness of economic thinking in Communist states.

These states realise that they will hopelessly lose ground both economically and in terms of power politics if they refuse to do some fundamentally rethinking.

On the other hand, a free economic order, which utilises the most effective instruments of regulating and coordinating the economic process and which at the same time fights against restraints of competition and the resultant positions of power, has outgrown capitalism.

This model of an emancipated market economy has moved beyond the usual ideologies. This explains its appeal.

Yet despite the unprecedented progress, open societies, such as the Federal Republic of Germany, do have their weak points.

One often wonders just how much importance is attached to freedom and free competition.

A strange kind of convergence could take place: the Communists try to employ the instruments of a liberal economic policy, whereas their democratic countries of origin increasingly seem to forget the basis of their success.

An age-old experience is confirmed. Those who live in deprivation and without freedom exert growing pressure for the realisation of a system which is more economically effective and which promises greater freedom.

Societies which have both tend to thoughtlessly gamble away their achievements.

There has often been talk of a "third path" between the systems and of possibilities of a "convergence." There could be a revival of such ideas.

In democratic countries no politician who wishes to be taken seriously would suggest exchanging a market economy system for a state-controlled system.

In the wake of a new thoughtlessness in economic policy, however, it is conceivable that a market economy could, for reasons of "overriding interests", be manipulated in order to achieve opportunist political goals.

Whereas some Communist countries are apparently convinced that a little market economy medicine will suffice to make a system previously regulated by bureaucrats as efficient as the western economic system the latter often incorporates dirigistic elements on the erroneous assumption that it can nevertheless maintain its economic strength.

Both cases overlook the fact that a market economy is a system marked by strict logical consistency.

Breaking the rules at one point triggers intervention elsewhere.

The East Bloc countries, for example, are trying to introduce market economy rules in certain fields without establishing civil rights and liberties for the population as a whole. They will wait in vain for the growing efficiency of their economies.

The development in China shows that a certain degree of economic liberalisation immediately leads to a call for political freedom.

This explains why the Soviet Union has adopted a different approach by trying to initially modify the totalitarian regime, an approach which admittedly involves just as many risks.

The introduction of elements of a market economy system puts pressure

Continued on page 6

Helping the Poles so they can help themselves

For many years the government in Warsaw was told: no more economic assistance unless there are political reforms.

Ever since martial law was imposed in Poland in December 1981 the answer to requests for financial support was that certain political requirements must first be fulfilled.

Poland has now changed faster than even optimists thought possible. Although Solidarity was unable to obtain a majority in the two chambers of the national assembly following semi-democratic elections, it does have a blocking minority.

Margaret Thatcher responded to this step towards democracy by granting a loan of DM77m for management training and for the promotion of the market economy system.

Francois Mitterrand promised short- and medium-term export credit guarantees worth DM200m, and the American President, George Bush, although as yet without money in his suitcase, is to visit Warsaw this month.

So what is preventing the government in Bonn from making a similar gesture?

What stands in the way of a visit to Poland by Chancellor Helmut Kohl — especially since this year is the fiftieth anniversary of the German invasion of Poland?

In the German-Polish relationship Kohl is currently acting as a prisoner of his own domestic policy constraints.

Irrespective of the outcome of talks between his adviser, Horst Teltschik and the Polish government representative Kucza, Kohl would like his visit to Warsaw to take place as soon as possible.

He does not want to give the Republicans, who are now practised in the art of activating anti-foreigner sentiment, an opportunity to inveigh against Bonn's economic assistance for its eastern neighbour.

The final stage of negotiations was prudently postponed until some time after the elections to the European Parliament.

This decision, however, in no way benefited the conservative union of CDU and CSU.

The following items are on the agenda of the German-Polish negotiations:

- Part of the DM1bn jumbo loan granted to Poland by the then Chancellor *Helmut Schmidt in 1975* is to be remitted and part of the loan "zlotycised."

Warsaw must then invest the corresponding amount in Polish currency in the setting up and extension of German cultural institutions, environmental protection projects or training for industry executives.

Yet even if the zloty amounts came from the money press they would be channelled into meaningful projects which would politically enable Bonn to write off these debts.

- The debts from the period between 1986 and 1988 are to again be rescheduled in such a way that repayment need not begin before 1993; in order to provide complete relief for the Poles during the coming years the payment of the interest due will also be deferred.
- Furthermore, the Bonn government will again be providing fresh money in the form of export guarantees for industrial plant in order to help Poland subsequently ease the strain on its balance of payments — either through higher exports or reduced imports.

Bonn wants to limit its commitment to DM300m (which would still be more than the French contribution).

The Polish government is asking for an annual injection of fresh funds amounting to DM1bn until 1995 — beginning this year.

Up to now all financial assistance has disappeared never to be seen again in the maze of socialist mismanagement.

Is there no better method of helping the Poles help themselves?

Neither the Polish government nor Solidarity have yet elaborated comprehensive proposals on how to put the economy back on its feet; their ideas are not coordinated.

If loans were granted to private businesses rather than the state this would reduce some of the unacceptable shortcomings in the consumer and services sector.

Invested in the right places they could encourage market mechanisms even before any major privatisation begins.

Why, for example, shouldn't German money be used to set up a German-Polish bank in Warsaw?

A bank on the spot would assess the profitability of projects in Poland and advise small and medium-sized private enterprises much better than public authorities and banks back in the Federal Republic of Germany.

What is more, this approach would by-pass the Polish bureaucracy.

Such a development bank, which other western European countries could and should join, might be able to assume just as important a role in the restructuring of the economy as the money itself.

It is true, of course, that the Poles must solve their problems themselves. Bonn, however, can at least help by giving them the right tools.

Helga Hirsch

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 30 June 1989)

Continued from page 2

the Spanish government views its commitment in the monetary field.

This move means that Madrid has committed itself to pursuing a monetary and budgetary policy orientated to price stability.

At the same time the decision can be interpreted as a confirmation of the desire not to belong to the second group of states in a "Europe of two speeds."

Spain's attempt during its Community presidency to make the European Community more "worker-friendly" was also only a partial success.

Although a compromise was reached on the draft of a "charter of basic social rights" Spain was unable to dissuade Britain from rejecting the wording of this document, which it was hoped the Community leaders would adopt. The Danes also opposed the wording of the charter.

One thing is certain: as in the case of monetary cooperation a Europe with a social dimension can only be achieved step by step and in consideration of the varying national conditions.

The same applies to cooperation in the foreign policy field, where Spain's Foreign Minister developed initiatives in the Middle East conflict and in the preparation of a permanent dialogue between the Community and Moscow.

The lion's share of the work during any presidency, however, consists of preparing Council meetings — work which rarely hits the headlines. This includes numerous specialist Councils of Ministers, the usual tug-of-war between the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers, and, above all, the efforts to eliminate technical and fiscal barriers to trade.

At the beginning of June Spain distributed a 33-page list of all provisional and finalised Council Decisions.

The alignment of the laws of the various Community member states has made headway.

Despite fears to the contrary the Community has also been able to liberalise financial services. But progress in the field of tax harmonisation is less impressive.

The negotiations on the elimination of border checks for private persons at the Community's internal borders have also apparently made little headway.

Some of the initiatives developed by Spain can be continued during the French chairmanship or "crossed off" once and for all.

This applies, for example, to European merger control or to the directive on "Television without Frontiers."

Madrid made a special effort to coordinate its own activities with the future "president", France.

Spanish officials will benefit from their experience in the Community arena.

Such experience is an invaluable asset.

Wilhelm Hadler

(Die Welt, Bonn, 27 June 1989)

■ SECURITY

Practising war in the air: pilots feel the pressure in more ways than one



One of the most important tasks of the armed forces in peacetime is air defence," major general Eberlein, chief of staff of the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Fleet (Ataf), explains as 14 Alpha jets make a simulated attack on the Hohn military airfield near Rendsburg, in Schleswig-Holstein.

The aircraft come from various directions, at intervals of just a few seconds *at an altitude of 75 metres. Two 20-millimetre* twin guns fire blank ammunition.

The gun turret of the Roland anti-aircraft missile system installed on a four-axle cross-country lorry keeps track of the jets. The radar tracker hectically follows their movements.

A shoulder-launched missile called Redeye is also set up. A soldier on foot can shoot down an aircraft with it.

This obsolete system will soon be replaced by the equally expensive Stinger missile, which made a macabre name for itself during the Afghanistan war.

General Eberlein says these weapons are needed to provide protection against air-raids, to guarantee the safety of air space and to support army units.

In addition to ground-to-ground missiles, anti-aircraft missiles and modern ground control and early warning systems 2,000 tactical combat aircraft (flown by American, Belgian, German, British, Dutch and Canadian pilots) help fulfil this task.

The various weapon systems are controlled by several radar control and reporting centres (CRS).

In these centres all information relevant *to the current air space situation is* evaluated and passed on to the fighter squadrons and anti-aircraft units in the form of combat missions.

Working in these centres is a nerve-racking business.

In a dry atmosphere and in semi-darkness almost half a company of soldiers study large radar screens for hours on end to interpret the flight movements *plotted by the* computer on both sides of the demarcation line.

The routes of passenger aircraft and the information of the mobile radar squads and the flying early warning aircraft, the Awacs, are also fed into the computer.

With the help of plenty of routine and careful judgement the men on duty are generally able to discern the intentions of the military aircraft. The smaller civilian aircraft cause most of the problems.

The situation gets tricky during the annual manoeuvres "Central Enterprise" and "Cold Fire."

During these large scale Nato manoeuvres, the only two air defence manoeuvres of this kind carried out each year, the controllers have to coordinate and integrate at least ten different types of aircraft as friend or foe in the assigned air space.

The only common feature is the language used: English. The room is full of snatches of conversation, coordinates and codes.

Specialists retain the most important data on a 70-square-metre transparent situation map or change them as they see fit.

Depending on each specific operation they alert the anti-aircraft centres by radio, telephone, telex or telecopier.

Hawk missiles for lower and intermediate air space, and Nike or Patriot for the upper air space move threateningly into the estimated approach paths of the assumed enemy.

The point defence of major ground targets also receives information on expected attacks for its Roland missiles and anti-aircraft guns. Sirens wail at the military airfields.

Interceptor pilots scramble to their aircraft to eliminate *the enemy before* they can reach their targets.

This task has to be mainly carried out by allied aircraft, since the German Phantoms are hardly a match for the third-generation jets from the East Bloc.

Although the "combat value" of the Phantoms can again be increased their days are numbered. How they will be replaced remains to be seen.

General Eberlein feels that both the European Fighter Aircraft and tried and tested models in current production are conceivable substitutes.

Crashes and the noise of low-level flying have stirred the protest of the public and political parties.

The aviation associations have been inundated with complaints, legal action and injunction orders.

There are growing calls for a reduction of the number of low-level flights, their transfer abroad or a ban.

The airforce has become more thin-skinned. Group captain Jürgen Stehli, wing commander of fighter-bomber squadron 34 in Memmingen (responsible to the 4th Allied Tactical Air Fleet, operation area south of the Bonn-Kassel line) stresses that "flying at a low level is necessary in order to escape danger and survive in combat."

He points out that the pilots must familiarise themselves with their operation area.

In a defence situation Stehli sends his Tornados into combat with three different tasks:

- to back up the army,
- to seal off the combat area (for example, operations against river crossings, missile and radar sites), and
- to engage in offensive missions against targets in enemy hinterland, for example, against airports, depots and troop concentrations.

"How can we fulfil these tasks if we are no longer allowed to practise low-level flying in the Federal Republic of Germany," Stehli asks.

"We have already reached the lowest threshold. We cannot go any lower than 240 hours of low-level flying per flight crew per annum."

The authors of a brochure issued by the headquarters of the US air force in Europe (Usafe) justifying low-level flights over Germany forwards this case even more urgently: "A combination of a low flight level and high speed is absolutely essential for the survival of flight crews.

"In a combat operation many aircraft would have to fly at a speed of over *1,300 kmph* at an altitude of no more than 30 metres.

"The ability to fly at a low level deteriorates after just two weeks without practice flights. The conditions in this country are in no way comparable with those in Arizona or even in Goose Bay."

The commander of the 1st air force division, major general Jürgen Schlüter, also feels that "task-orientated training" cannot be achieved by just the "laying on of hands."

Nevertheless, the military *did* make concessions during this year's *eighth* "Central Enterprise" manoeuvre *with* regard to the low-level flying section.

It refrained from increasing the number of daily flight hours in comparison with its daily training.

By way of compensation for the greater number of low-level flights at an altitude of 75 metres in the target areas the minimum flight level in the other designated low-level flight areas was raised to 150 metres.

This step meant that inhabitants were obliged to accept more frequent *aircraft* noice whose residential areas *were* previously less affected by this problem.

The young pilots are even more upset about the fuss over aircraft noise than the generals: "We are the real scapegoats and whipping boys," says one captain.

In the meantime the Alpha jet pilot has decided not to become a professional soldier but to try his luck back on civvy street.

This officer, who as a pilot (as opposed to most other officers in the army) was unable to complete a study course in the Bundewehr, hopes that an airline will give him a chance to study for his commercial pilots licence.

In the light of such a personal history the claims of the generals sound empty.

Although they admit that there are bottlenecks due to the fact that some of their pilots move to civilian airlines they all *maintain that "regardless of all the* frustation, the ability and the precision of the flying personnel have not *suffered.*"

They are not worried about the recruitment of suitable young pilots.

There is also a growing mood of unrest among the Tornado pilots and other officers.

One officer said that, although he enjoys *flying, he does not understand* why he should be the butt of public criticism for the noise his aircraft makes.

"I practise hard so as to be able to protect my army comrades and protect the civilian population.

"People do not know what I know: in an emergency situation at least one of the aircraft sent on a mission does not come back!"

The officer shrugs his *shoulders* and goes off to the discussion of the next operation.

After about an hour he is sat in his Tornado and waves a white glove in the cockpit just before take-off.

Seconds later all that can be seen is the flicker of orange-red flames shooting out of the two afterburners as his Tornado disappears in the overcast sky.

The spectators put their hands over their ears as three other pilots also move into the scramble with a mighty roar.

Klaus Wittkamp

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 21 June 1989)

■ PERSPECTIVE

The Republicans: seeking alterations to history

The extreme right-wing Republican party will not go away as many people were hoping. They were elected to the Berlin assembly earlier this year with 9 per cent of the vote; and now they have polled more than 7 per cent in the European election.

Where do the Republicans stand? Do they operate inside or outside the democratic spectrum?

The *Verfassungsschutz* (Office for the Protection of the Constitution) is one of the German counter-intelligence organisations. Its chief, Gerhard Boeden, says the Republicans are "at the extreme fringe of the democratic spectrum."

This means the *Verfassungsschutz* regards them as a democratic party, radical but not extremist.

But a look at the party's manifesto shows that they are basically anti-democratic.

The manifesto not only questions the historical basis of the constitutional system in Germany, but also casts doubts on the fundamental principles on which this system is based.

The political and social order is a result of the experience with the National *Socialist dictatorship.*

This experience, therefore, is not only history, but also an integral part of the foundation of the West German state.

The Republicans want to radically change this understanding of German history.

They combine demands for "national self-determination and spiritual and moral renewal" with a defamation of the *insights which* led to the Basic Law: "The wartime propaganda of the victor powers has been incorporated into our history books, and its exaggerations and distortions of the truth have to be by and large believed by German youth, since an objective historiography is still not entirely possible."

Auschwitz, the world war, the persecution and murder of members of opposition *groups: just wartime propaganda?*

The general direction in which the Republicans are heading is obvious. Their goal is the "decriminalisation of German culture, history and people".

To this end they favour an educational system which "imparts knowledge and understanding of the entire historical past of the Germans with reference to each specific epoch and emphasises the *peculiarities*, achievements and mistakes."

When related to the period of National Socialism this can only mean assessing the Nazi dictatorship in terms of its own conditions and objectives.

An assessment on this basis is bound to have a more favourable outcome for the Nazis than if their activities are appraised in terms of democracy, freedom and human rights.

The absurdity of the view of history on the part of the Republicans is also reflected in their demand that the "German negotiating position" in peace negotiations should be determined by the "clarification of the thesis of sole guilt."

After the experience with the Nazi state the Basic Law made human beings and their freedom its pivotal point.

Apart from civil rights and liberties the federal order and the function of political parties and groups became integral parts of a social and political system in which there was to be no more room for an omnipotent state. The views expressed by the Republicans are diametrically opposed to this concept.— irrespective of how far it has in fact been realised.

The Republicans favour an authoritarian state, a system which found its most awe-inspiring expression in during the era of Nazi rule.

In their manifesto, they say that "reason of state and public welfare (have) priority over the interests of political parties and groups."

The subordination of the individual to the shared values and moral concepts of the community as a whole is poorly disguised:

"We shall establish law and order as the indispensable basis for the life and prosperity of individuals, their families; the entire people and the government in a form which again allows harmony between the rights of individuals and their duties to the community as a whole."

If the Republicans ever come to power the trade unions will be the first institution to notice what "duties to the Community" mean.

The Republican manifesto wants to *limit the activities of trade unions to* ensuring the "well-being of workers and the thriving of their places of work"; furthermore, the unions should negotiate the "price of labour in accordance with the benefit for the economy as a whole."

Trade unions would then cease to represent of workers' interests against the interests of employers and simply share responsibility for the "achievement-orientated *community of all individuals.*"

This principle also applied in the Third Reich after the Nazis broke up the independent trade unions.

The party programme does not explain how the Republicans intend "changing awareness" in order to subjugate the unions.

It is pretty obvious, however, that such a fundamental upheaval of the existing

Frankfurter Rundschau

social system cannot be effected without coercion.

The language used by the Republicans when addressing the subject of "the German people" is ominously *reminiscent* of Nazi propaganda.

Their proclaimed domestic policy objective is "the safeguarding of the continued existence of the German people, its health and its ecological living space" (*Lebensraum*).

Environmental protection, health policy, family policy and educational policy are subordinated to this objective of "*safeguarding the continued existence*" of the German people.

It is hoped that the attainment of this objective will improve the situation of the "German people", not of the people living in the Federal Republic of Germany.

This xenophobic undertone is complemented by the description of the "mother tongue", German, of course, as a "fundamental educational requirement".

Youth is expected to *train its* "physical, psychological and intellectual abilities" as a "whole." Although the latter may sound harmless it is not.

The educational ideal of the Republicans is the conformist, the uncritical individual who subjects his own interests to those of the community and who upholds national symbols.

Teachers are expressly expected to "be educated to be loyal to our state and its laws in the spoken and written word and in their action."

There is no mention in the party manifesto of training a person's critical faculty or independence.

If the Republicans have their way the foreigners living in Germany will be deprived of their rights. Germany, the manifesto runs, "must remain the land of the Germans"; foreigners are "guests."

This "rules out unlimited employment contracts and franchisement, permanent residence, family reunion and claims to social benefits."

In other words, although foreigners can work here and pay taxes and social insurance contributions they should not be entitled to claim benefits.

The Republicans do not even want them to become members of German political parties.

They want to abolish the right to asylum guaranteed in the Basic Law.

Victims of political persecution "can be granted asylum" if the "limitations of the absorptive capacity" make this possible.

The concept Republicans have of the role of women has nothing to do with the equal rights guaranteed in the Basic Law.

In concrete terms, this means that the role of women is to be reduced to that of mother and housewife.

Admittedly, the Republicans also call for job training for girls, but only to enable their return to working life "after their activity on behalf of family and children."

The role of housewife and mother is idealised: "It is above all the woman who, through warmth and devotion, creates a *climate of security, in which the family* and children can develop."

The Republicans claim that no man or collective can fulfil the requirements of this vocation.

"Working women", on the other hand, are defamed: "Those women who try to cope with marriage, the family and a job at the same time often suffer under this multiple strain and overtaxing of their abilities.

"They feel just as unfulfilled — which *often leads to psychological disturbances* — as those women who seek satisfaction in their jobs alone."

To make sure that girls learn at an early stage how they should behave as mothers and housewives the Republicans plan a compulsory social year, which would include courses "relating to tasks as a woman, mother and housewife." Girls are to be compelled to prepare for *the role of mother.*

Republicans do not think a great deal about freedom of the press. They demand more "public spirit" from the media.

If they are unable to prevent what the Republicans regard as unacceptable by means of "responsible self-control" they will have to be censored.

Newspapers, magazines, radio and television, for example, should not be *allowed to present reports on contemporary* or past history which are "interpreted from today's perspective."

If the desired self-control proves unsuccessful the Republicans intend setting up "control organs which are independent of parties and other groups to protect the freedom of citizens threatened by the initimidation and pollution of the intellectual environment".

Article 5 of the Basic Law, however, a stipulation which is unalterable,, states: "There shall be no censorship."

Martin Winter

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 20 June 1989)

Right wingers attract older, male voters

Republican voters in the European election tended to be older and male, according to an analysis of voting in 19 German cities.

The right-wingers polled 7.1 per cent overall. In Hamburg, 41 per cent of Republican voters were older than 60; 7.7 per cent of male voters and 3.5 per cent of women voted decided for them.

The survey was by the election research committee of the Association of German Urban Statisticians.

As committee chairman Wolfgang Bick from the Duisburg Statistical Office explained there was no repeat of the good showing by the right-wing parties among young voters in the Berlin and Frankfurt local government elections.

In most of the 19 cities surveyed the percentage of 18- to-24 year-olds who voted Republican was much the same or slightly below the overall metropolitan figure.

The survey showed that 41 per cent of the Republican voters in Hamburg were older than 60 (proportion of total number of voters: 37.5 per cent) and 19 per cent were younger than 35 (24 per cent).

As opposed to the Greens, which were much more popular among women, the Republicans were most popular among men. This applies to all cities and to all age groups.

In Bremen, for example, the right-wing party obtained six per cent of the total number of male votes and only three per *cent of the female votes; the figures in Nuremberg* were 22 per cent and 15 per cent.

In Hamburg almost twice as many men voted for Republicans as women. According to Hamburg's Statistical Office, only 3.5 per cent of women voters voted Republican as opposed to 7.7 per cent of the male voters (total vote for the Republicans: 5.3 per cent).

The biggest sex-specific differences in the votes for Republicans can be found in the over-sixties.

Herr Bick feels that this is because the election turnout was much higher among older men than in the last European election. Many of those who abstained from voting at the last Euro-election voted, especially in southern German cities, for the Republicans this time.

As a result the CDU and CSU were much less popular among older men (older than 60) than among older women.

One striking feature is the comparatively low Republican vote among older voters in the Ruhr area, which indicates greater traditional loyalties in this region.

There has little change in the age structure of the voters' of the two big parties, CDU and SPD, in the big cities.

The SPD retained the same appeal or lack of it in all age groups, although it is perhaps more popular among younger *women.* The popularity of the CDU and CSU, on the other hand, increases with age.

The percentage share of these parties in the votes of young voters, however, is higher than in the votes of the over 30-year-olds in most cities.

The survey was based on representative election statistics for the cities of Hamburg, Bremen, Lübeck, Brunswick, Duisburg, Oberhausen, Mülheim, Bochum, *Dortmund, Hagen, Cologne, Düsseldorf,* Münster, Saarbrücken, Wiesbaden, Karlsruhe, Darmstadt, Augsburg and Nuremberg.

dpa

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 24 June 1989)

■ BUSINESS

Court ruling will mean partly opening up cosy insurance market to outsiders

A decision by the European Court of Justice will mean an opening up of the German commercial insurance market. It will mean that foreign insurance companies will be able to offer policies without setting up an office in Germany. However, policies for individual people will remain controlled. According to Rudolf Kahlen, who wrote this article for the Hamburg weekly, *Die Zeit*, the German insurance market is a law unto itself. Insurance companies create cartels and fix prices. He quotes one consumer authority as saying that on average, every German household has four policies which are too expensive. Each household paid 300 marks a year too much. Kahlen looks at the habit of tying the purchaser to long-term contracts to make it difficult to change to cheaper companies in ensuing years; and he makes some observations about the strength and activity of the insurance lobby in Bonn.

Insurance managers are not to be envied, if you can believe Georg Büchner. He is president of the West German insurers association."Sometimes we feel like lobsters, envied by clients, cracked open by the politicians and sucked dry by the connoisseurs."

His lament was over a decision by the Bonn government at the beginning of the year to open up the insurance market to more competition in view of the coming single European market and also because of a general deregulation in insurance.

The government wanted to rewrite some outdated laws governing insurance with the aim of benefitting the consumer.

Herr Büchner can feel less like a cracked lobster. Insurance lobbyists got to Bonn in time to rescue the situation. Changes the industry didn't think suitable (for itself) have mostly been cancelled.

Hans Dieter Meyer, head of the Hamburg association for the insured, says: "This is incredible. It just goes to show the influence the insurance industry has over politics."

This sort of chumminess could only happen because people were inadequately informed about insurance matters.

On average everyone in this country has six insurance policies. Last year alone people paid out DM138bn in premiums. This would have financed half the national budget.

The German insurance market is the largest in Europe and is a law unto itself. Companies create cartels. Price-fixing is common. The Federal Supervisory Office for Insurance and for Building and Loan Associations in Berlin keeps watch the industry closely.

The cartels authority say these authorities follow policies which prevent innovation.

Until now the insurance market has been sealed off from outside influences, allowing insurance companies to share out the lucrative business among themselves. There has been little foreign competition to make things uncomfortable. That is to change.

A European Court of Justice ruling means that from 1990 all insurance companies in the European Community will be able to offer cover in Germany without first opening offices here.

This will mean total freedom of action to negotiate industrial insurance. But the court ruled that personal insurance needed protection, so controls will continue to be exercised here.

Any foreign company wanting to sell insurance to private people here will first have to have their terms approved by the Berlin authorities.

The court ruling has now been established in EC Commission guidelines. The ruling also means that two German directives will have to be changed.

This includes the discussion paper on amendments to the Contract of Insurance Law, presented in January. This document went so far as to envisage revising this legislation totally.

The 220-page document was drawn up by Waldemar Müller-Ender, who has now retired as head of the money and credit department in the Finance Ministry.

He took into consideration the views of the cartel authorities. The document has now been cut down to just 60 pages.

The red pencil went through this sentence, for instance: "An agreement which binds the insured longer than three years for the term of the insurance is invalid."

This sentence would have meant an end to ten-year agreements in private insurance, which is common among three-quarters of all companies offering policies for third party liability, household goods, residential buildings, accident and legal costs.

Insurance companies reward their representatives with attractive commissions if long-term insurance of this sort is taken out. As a rule they pay 80 per cent of the first year's premium plus ten to 15 per cent in the following years.

To cover this clients usually have to pay an inflated premium for the insurance cover and they cannot change to a company offering more favourable terms. If the insured tries to do this he has to pay damages, which the insurance company is entitled to claim if a policy is terminated.

Hans Dieter Meyer estimates that in every household there are four insurance policies which are too expensive. Year after year about DM300 too much is paid to insurance companies. Nationwide that adds up to many billions of marks.

This is why it is not surprising that insurance lobbyists have done everything possible since last January to ensure that everything remains just as it is.

Before the public hearing was held in April for interested parties in insurance matters, Edgar Jannott, head of the Victoria Insurance Company, acting in his capacity as presidium member of the insurance sector asssociation, and Max Engel, insurance agents' asssociation president, asked for discussions in the Federal Finance Ministry. They visited Herr Müller-Enders, the official responsible.

The result of the discussions was that ten-year contracts will continue if clients especially indicate they want long-term insurance and they are offered a discount on the premium.

Rolof Jurk is a spokesman for the association representing consumer interests. He said bluntly: "We feel this is an audacious restriction on clients. Mostly people who do not have a lot of experience in business matters fall for this."

Herr Jurk knows that companies specialising in long-term insurance policies ask for premiums twice or three-times more expensive than they should be.

For instance, a person taking out third party liability insurance with Deutsche Herold, which gives cover of a million marks for personal injury and up to DM300,000 for damage to property, has to pay DM122.40 per year.

Even if he gets a discount because of a long-term policy, he is still not doing very well. By the Vereinigte Haftpflicht-Versicherung in Hanover he would only have to pay DM64.20.

A second point arose from the intimate discussion in the Finance Ministry. It concerned the premium adjustment clause in policies. All companies can increase premiums by up to ten per cent every year for policies giving household goods and third party insurance cover, and legal cost insurance policy premiums can be upped as much as 15 per cent.

Only when these thresholds are exceed can the client cancel the insurance.

August Angerer, president of the Berlin Supervisory Office, said: "This regulation is generally anti-competition and anti the consumer."

This is why the discussion paper provided an overall right to cancel insurance on the grounds of premium adjustments.

This passage was dropped after the visit to the Finance Ministry. The regulation with the thresholds was kept, although in future at a lower level.

If there was nothing more to be discussed during the public hearing about the period of validity of a policy and the possibilities of cancelling insurance, because these points had been "conjointly regulated," the discussion paper provided plenty of opportunities for heated discussion.

From the consumers' point of view the regulations on matters of insurance are of considerable importance. In the meantime, however, everyone knows which of the interested parties has gained the upper hand.

The insurance conditions in residential buildings, household goods, personal liability and accident insurance are generally standard. The supervisory office takes care of that.

The insurance companies' standard policy cannot properly deal with individual requirements even if one or another additional extra is included.

If this were applied to the car sector it would mean that only VW Beetles could be bought from the year dot in red or green with a sunroof and rear fog lights.

The cartel authorities have criticised this situation which they maintain supervisory officials are partly to blame for, and demand more freedom in the formulation of the terms of insurance policies.

This demand has been taken up at senior civil servant level in Bonn and they have presented three possibilities in the discussions on the document.

They extend from the juxtaposition of officially examined and unexamined policies (Model A) up to standard conditions, officially approved, with extras that are exempt from approval (Model C).

Version C gets the most approval in Berlin. Through this version a variety of conditions would be possible. In the view of the association of the insured this variety must remain easily comprehensible so that comparisons can be made, partiicularly from a financial viewpoint

This is why Hans Dieter Meyer has suggested that all insurance companies ought to quote a premium for the standard conditions with the minimum insurance cover and a list of additional premiums for extras.

Nothing came of that. One official said: "All the models are now wandering about in the infernal regions." The veto from the insurance sector itself was more important. But that is not all.

Branch representatives are not interested in more precise formualations in the 88-year-old Insurance Supervisory Law. For good reasons.

Until now Paragraph 81 has included a general clause which re-describes in general terms the tasks of the Imperial Supervisory Office for Private Insurance, established in 1901.

In the draft for the amendment it states instead: "Should there be a danger that the conduct of an insurance company is not in the general interests of the people it insures the supervisory authorities can then take the appropriate administrative action to remove the abuse."

The Finance Ministry, as the authority in charge of the Berlin Supervisory Office, intended here to establish "what current insurance supervision should achieve."

But it has achieved something quite differently over the powerful insurance sector, which it is meant to control.

The relevant pages in the draft have been dropped in the meantime. Georg Büchner was right when he stamped a great part of the discussion paper as "doomed to failure" during the public hearing.

Rudolf Kahlen

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 2 June 1989)

East Bloc changes

Continued from page 3

on a totalitarian political system to introduce greater freedom.

Vice versa, growing state intervention inevitably leads to a transformation of the liberal system.

Clever people in Communist states have apparently realised this fact.

Concessions in the direction of a multi-party system in Hungary and Poland suggest that intended social change extends beyond just the field of economic policy.

Such a development was not possible during the 60s (e.g. Prague, 1968), since the Soviet Union as the lending power of the empire of satellite states had not yet realised the problems.

If Communist economic reformers wish to do more than just improve the efficiency of the economy and start closing the gap to western economies they must replace the principles of a state-controlled economy by the logic of a liberal economic system.

In the long term an efficient market economy is not possible without democracy.

A free economy and democratic liberties are two sides of the same coin.

Economic policy experts throughout the world, therefore, view the changes in the East Bloc as a breathtaking experiment.

Ernst Günter Vetter

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 June 1989)

■ BUSINESS

Steeling themselves for an explosion in the south

The German steel industry seems healthy enough. Plants are working at capacity. Prices, at a comfortable level already, could be increased.

In one sector or another there is temporary stock-piling of this or that product, but bad spots of this sort are in most cases quickly ironed out.

Yet executives in the Federal Republic's steel industry are convinced that a time-bomb is ticking away in the south of the European Community.

At the end of last year the Council of Ministers presented the Italian industry with a Christmas present, which will give other companies in the European steel industry annoyance in the future and which could cost a lot of jobs.

The Bonn government as well gave its approval to the Italian Finsider-Ilva Group getting once more a subsidy of DM7.5bn.

The Italians had wanted DM10bn. That they ceased pressing for the extra DM2.5bn can only be considered a major success for the protest raised by the other steel-producing countries in the EC.

There is a ban on all subsidies in Article 4 of the European Coal and Steel Community treaty. But what are the realities?

From 1975 until 1985 governments in the European Community have paid DM106bn in subsidies to their steel companies — since 1981 this was legalised by the "Subsidies Codex."

"The Italians alone paid out DM33bn. The Federal Republic's steel industry only got DM6bn, the lowest figure, and, unlike the other countries, part of this has to be repaid. The British Steel Corporation, among others, is completely clear of debt as regards subsidies.

The German steel industry must adjust itself to these unmarket-like operations which give the competition the edge. The industry is at present earning good money but it must adjust itself should the market again weaken or even get close to collapse.

Competitive companies will play with their advantages to the full. It must be calculated now whether the subsidies which are flowing into the industry will be directed at price cuts in the battle for market shares, or whether steel can be sold without interest costs.

Whatever the outcome it will have the effect of distorting the market, against which the competence of the best salesmen and the most efficient plant are of no avail.

That is exactly why the German steel industry is warning in good time of the dangers of a new subsidy spiral.

To quote an example used by the workers council, if a steel works is to go out of business like the Rheinhausen steelworks, while, for example, the weak managed British Ravenscraigh works or the Italian Bagnoli works continue to operate, it shows today that genuine competitive advantages do not come to fruition.

The Subidies Codex limited the payment of subventions to the end of 1985. It was also demanded at the same time that works should close down plant to the same extent they received subsidies.

There was a rule of thumb for this: a billion marks in subsidies meant that capacities for producing about a million tons of steel had to be closed down.

According to these criteria there would be no Italian industry left. Finsider-Ilva should originally have closed down the out-dated Bagnoli works in Naples.

Via the newly-approved subsidy proposals the hot-rolled, wide-band steel mill, which is the nucleus of every steel works today, could be rescued.

What remained was the condition that pig iron and steel operations had to be closed by 30 June 1989.

It is only reasonable that in a time of full employment, when even unprofitable plant can earn money, there should be no demand for immediate closure. This is why the deadline of 30 June is not feasible.

Moreover, independent of the deadline, this is all pure eyewash. For the closure of the preliminary stages has no influence on the volume of the end products.

If the blast furnaces and steel converters in Bagnoli are closed down, then in future the preliminary materials for the hot-rolled, wide-strip steel mill would come from the Corigliano works as ingots. There is there a continuous casting plant for the production of ingots, the starting materials for the hot-rolled, wide-strip steel mill.

In the meantime it seems as if even in the long-term the minimal demands will not be fulfilled, that is the closure of pig iron and raw steel operations.

The Bonn government should insist, along with governments, that the conditions for closure be fulfilled not only for pig iron and raw steel stages but also at the hot-rolled, wide-strip steel mill, as soon as changed market conditions make the works in Bagnoli a "borderline case" again.

The fact that the closure of the Bagnoli works, located in Naples, would create considerable social problems, should not be an obstacle to essential capacity reductions.

It is better for the state to help the people concerned than that the state put taxpayers' money into an economically hopeless plant.

There are still cases of price undercutting, which can only be explained by subsidies. The Italian blast furnace plant AIT in Trieste, for instance, is offering on the German market special iron pipes for foundries at prices, which for hematite (valuable iron ore) are DM30 below the offers for Brazilian pig iron and for spherical pig iron are slightly below the Canadian price.

But that is a peripheral matter for the steel industry taken as a whole. These prices show that subsidy-based competition is still smouldering.

It could be that many governments believe that they can afford to do without the payment of steel subsidies.

So much the more so must the Council of Minister regard it as their task to bring the disastrous spiral to a halt.

Helmut Uebbing

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 June 1989)

Merger talks between Krupp and Salzgitter confirmed

It has been confirmed that Krupp and Salzgitter are discussing a merger.

They say the range of products would be extended, not just in steel but in electronics and mechanical engineering.

The two companies would have a combined annual turnover of DM25bn and a combined payroll of 100,000.

Krupp-Salzgitter would be among the top group of major German companies, a group led by Krupp not long ago.

Once more the merger roundabout is turning in the German steel industry, where almost everyone has talked to everyone else at some time.

It began with the "steel triangle" of Hoesch-Klöckner-Salzgitter, then continued with Krupp-Hoesch and Krupp-Thyssen speculation.

Talks between Krupp and Klöckner were under way for a long time, and only recently Thyssen in plain terms wanted to swallow up Krupp.

The only thing which has come out of all this is the sacrifice of the Krupp steel works at Rheinhausen, Duisburg, employing 5,000, because in future Krupp and Mannesmann intend to produce raw steel together in neighbouring Huckingen.

Now there is the latest variation of Krupp-Salzgitter. This is a combination which until now no-one in the industry took seriously; chances of success for such a merger seemed remote.

Consideration was given to the fact that both had production factories widely spread out and that Salzgitter was state-owned.

Even this could be changed — but it would hardly be possible to do so overnight on technical grounds.

The next few months will show whether the wishes and realities of both management tally. Similar events in the Ruhr have usually started off with both sides glowing with the advantages merger would present; this quickly fades over vital factors, about debts and credits, about supremacy or the location of the administration. Much falls apart for these reasons.

The fruits of this have been bitterness and heaps of fragements all over the place of what started off with much fuss and premature praise.

Krupp and Salzgitter certainly do not have the intention of throwing up every small problem.

Nevertheless it starts one thinking when Krupp, of all organisations, is again deep in merger negotiations.

It should not be ignored just how Krupp, employing 60,000, has had to battle with problems in the past, heightened by merger crises at the top and mismanagement in many divisions of the organisation.

Enormous losses in industrial technology, and at times even greater losses in the steel works, as well as with fire protection and heavy-duty diesel engines, must be halted. They have cost billions of the organisation's wealth.

Moreover the constant merger negotiations unsettle workers so that they are never enthusiastic and motivated.

And the new merger negotiations hinder again energies. One day it will be asked if it is all worth it.

This heave-ho process, as it appears now, can only be interpreted in one way: Probably Krupp weakness is the strongest driving force for the current talks with Salzgitter: perhaps it is the verdict of the extensively changed top management that in the long-term nothing good can happen without additional partners.

Leonhard Spielhofer

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 16 June 1989)

Siemens and Matsushita both chip in

Siemens, the German electrical hand electronic group, has signed a deal with Matsushita to make electronic components.

In explaining the agreement, Siemens' executive board chairman, Karlheinz Kaske, explained that it had to be recognised that important advances in component-part technology were coming from Japan.

The two companies will work together in a joint venture in the manufacture of passive component parts from 1 October.

Siemens is bringing into the Siemens-Matsushita Component GmbH & Co. KG its six factories for condensers and ceramic component parts in Germany, Austria, France and Spain, valued at between DM160m to DM200m.

Matsushita will pay cash for its 25.1 per cent of the new company's equity, which over the next two years will be increased to 50 per cent.

The company will not only be located in Munich but will have a Siemens image, according to Herr Kaske — the majority of the votes will also be in Siemens hands after 1991.

Matsushita has a turnover of an estimated DM79bn; Siemens DM59bn. But to some extent they balance each other out.

The Japanese are way ahead in passive component parts with a turnover of DM6bn as compared with Siemens' DM700m.

Their secret; their condensers, resistors and inductance are used to a great extent in their own range of "brown goods," that is radios, television sets, recorders and so on, and other consumer articles.

Siemens puts great store in this. "We are working together not only with a producer, but also with one of the most important purchasers of passive component parts," said Herr Kaske, thinking with some satisfaction about future sales channels.

It is a welcome development that Siemens, geared to capital goods, will be more strongly involved in the consumer electronics industry through this arrangement.

The leisure electronics industry alone takes up more than 40 per cent of the world volume of passive component parts of DM27bn.

Siemens could be better represented in the mass-production business of small electronic parts which play an important role in household and leisure electronic equipment, from protection against power fluctuations to flashes of lightening.

Herr Kaske was guarded about the profitability of the sector. He said: "We are certainly bent on having the passive component parts division in the black up to 30 September."

At least no part of production seems to be endangered by the Japanese-German alliance. "There is hardly any overlapping. We manufacture products Matsushita does not produce," emphasised director Klaus Ziegler.

In view of the ten thousand products in the passive component parts field some kind of order will be introduced about "who produces what. Neither of us can produce everything." Matsushita president Akio Tanii regards the ar-

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■ ARCHITECTURE

A German who reached for Chicago's sky

German architect Helmut Jahn has done much to change the skyline of Chicago. He draws his inspiration from the art deco of the 20s. Dpa correspondent Thomas Mancke's article appeared in the *Mannheimer Morgen*.

The Jewellers Building is one of the best addresses in Chicago, the skyscraper metropolis of Lake Michigan. It is an impressive office block built in the 1920s in the city centre by the Chicago river.

On the 45th floor, a massive dome contains a single room with a panoramic view of a city which has been making architectural history for more than a century.

And it is still being made. In this room, Helmut Jahn, 49, who comes from Nuremberg, receives his clients.

Showbiz is an important part of the packaging. Jahn is the master of self-presentation and of staging, items which are important if such concrete things such as architecture are to be sold. Models of high-rise buildings he has designed sit on his table in much the same way as rockets at Werner von Braun's workplace. The view out of the window also is not without effect: out there are building and monuments which testify to Jahn's work.

He has had a rapid rise in Chicago. He came here in 1967 from the technical university in Munich with his architect's degree in his pocket. His first stop was at a well-known architect's, Murphy Associates, where he took a part-time job. Six years later, he was chief architect and vice-president of the firm and had collected a batch of architectural prizes.

The Americans are fond of people who succeed. Perhaps it is this charisma of success which has led developers to allow Jahn almost to do what he wants. Firms which have offices in a Jahn-designed building use the sensational architecture as a way of advancing their image.

Jahn's designs create such an effect of the new and the unaccustomed that he has been called the Baron of High Tech.

But it is a description that doesn't really fit his style; he prefers to hide the technology rather than display it. He often finds his inspiration in the art deco of the 1920s. He "updates" designs that have become legendary — for example, the Chrysler Building in New York.

His working drawings are sketches in red-brown ink on bits of paper rather like an artist's first outlines. The results are usually more reminiscent of sculptures in which static and function are only secondary. The aesthetic qualities of his towers derive from the interplay of gleaming surfaces assembled from tinted glass, painted metal and polished stone.

His lines are varied: circles intersecting rectangles; the peaks of his towers are cut like diamonds into multi-faceted finishes.

Using variations, he creates buildings with distinctive styles. All of his buildings, it doesn't matter if they are metro stations, office towers, airport terminals or sport stadiums, have their own characteristics. Jahn's critics say that his designs are inconsistent in style.

Beat this, if you can ... Jahn and Messe-Turm. (Photo: dpa)

The State of Illinois Center, a futuristic building which is to be used as an administration centre, has caused a furore. It has been named The Spaceship by Chicagoans. The land is rectangular. The building has a base comprising quarter-circle sections so that space is created at each corner. Tapering glass facades are used to bring the sky, barely visible away above the towering buildings, down to earth in a confusion of reflected images. This creates a strong contrast to the neighbouring buildings which, in comparison, are grey blocks.

Inside, the dimensions of the reception area and usable space appear to be inverted. The lobby is topped by a ceiling 19 floors high. This is where there are cultural exhibitions, where businessmen come for lunch and where lovers meet.

It is a public place for the public. It is a government building where the business of government has been pushed to the periphery so that it does not develop an overbearing presence. Instead, it is there to be seen by those for whom it exists.

From galleries and from lifts with glass walls, people can see servants of the state, including the governor, at work. A democratic architectural tradition that Chicago has a tradition for.

Not far away, another Jahn building, the North Western Terminal, pushes into the sky. The bombastic entrance to the railway station betrays not the slightest what lies inside. Go through the gleaming hall and through the rotating doors. On the other side are the platforms — and the feeling that one has stepped back into the 19th century. Narrow, colourless and antiquated technology reveal a tired, worn-out American railway system. It is for this that Jahn created the illusory entrance. In

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Illusion, nostalgia in the Gothic towers of commerce

Goethe once wrote that Frankfurt contained nothing architecturally uplifting. Everything there hinted at a long-gone past, a past that had been turbulent for both the city and the region.

Well, Goethe is gone, but the turbulence is still there. High-rise towers are pushing towards the heavens and there is doubt about how things should proceed from now on. It is a time of reflection. Should the push upwards be halted? Or are there here also hints at a distant past?

Frankfurt is a centre of trade. Its service industries are expanding. But the room available to expand into is constant. So, instead of expanding horizontally, they are expanding vertically.

Because self-image is an essential part of every business, tall buildings are not simply tall; they represent their user. In this, Frankfurt is no different from New York.

So, Frankfurt's Gothic towers of commerce: Soll and Haben (Debit and Credit) are the names of the twin towers of the Deutsche Bank building. Both are 155 metres high. They project above an almost-triangular building from an irregular polygon base.

From wherever the viewer stands, the building establishes a visual confirmation that this is where the centre is. And it reflects the criteria of the age: in the early days of Frankfurt, the facades at street level dictated form. Not with Soll and Haben. Here, the architecture has not dictated the use of space; it is the other way round.

The towers reflect the city of Frankfurt in perhaps what is a form of narcissism. The city's form becomes an illusion. But the glass also appeases. In spite of their height, the towers are an understatement — they appear as a mere echo of their surroundings.

The Citybank building is different. In the afternoons, its tinted windows direct the cold and unreal sunlight deep into the Neue Schlesingergasse far below and a pedestrian might get the feeling that he is taking a stroll away from the centre, that he is backstage somewhere.

Skyscrapers have completely changed the city's silhouette and have earned it the name "Mainhattan" (Frankfurt is on the River Main). But they have also precipitated a shrinking of the surrounding area. Proportions have begun to stumble over one another.

The change has its origins in the 1960s in the Westend. The speculators moved in and they were followed by the squatters and the atmosphere became charged. It was an uncertain time. Then investors discovered the old patrician area and moved in with their money and signs.

But the main problem was: there was no overall plan. Frankfurt was simply becoming Bankfurt and then Cranefurt. Since 1977, things have got better even though there is still no overall plan in sight.

It seemed that the bank towers were for the money and Römerberg (site of the city's few remaining historic houses) and Sachsenhausen (an area renowned for its many *Lokale*) for more gastronomic considerations. Elementary. Or perhaps, alimentary.

But the skyscrapers have become more attractive. Whereas they used to be thrown together like boxes, today they are works of art.

Some of them have pedestrianised areas so people can walk under them. The Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft building has even considered passers-by in its interior: underground there are shops and an entrance to the Theaterplatz U-Bahn station. Above ground, the new towers are slickly elegant.

This is the second generation of tall buildings and people have become used to them; some do have a positive image of the city's image.

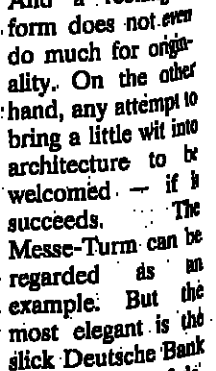
Now Messe-Turm is on the way. It will stretch 256 metres into the sky — which will put both Debit as well as Credit a long way down the ledger.

But that is not all by any means on the western front: they're reaching for the sky along the Mainzer Landstrasse (which heads westwards from Frankfurt in the direction of Mainz, 25 miles away). The Bundesbahn Campanile is to be 265 metres high. There is no doubt that it will be built: planning permission has been given.

Skyscrapers are the children of the age. Splendour is required. The future is draped in nostalgia: echoes of the skyscrapers of the 1930s in the Messe-Turm cannot simply be dismissed.

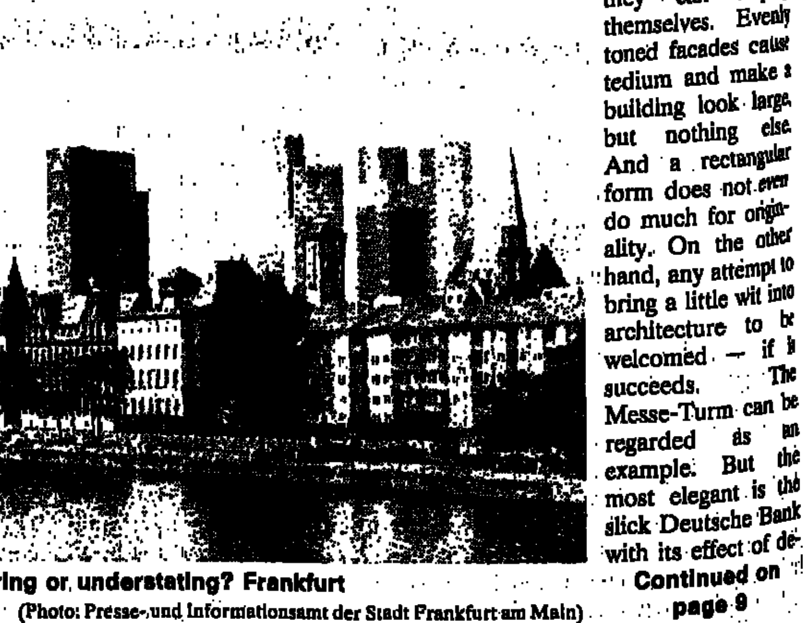
But it is not known which direction the spirit of the age will now take. It isn't clear where the city administration stands. And the political parties? The SPD and the Greens are not, in general, against. The CDU is in favour.

Skyscrapers should not be monotone and they need surroundings in which they can display themselves.



Evenly toned facades cause tedium and make a building look large, but nothing else. And a rectangular form does not even do much for originality. On the other hand, any attempt to bring a little wit into architecture to be welcomed — if it succeeds. The Messe-Turm can be regarded as an example. But the most elegant is the slick Deutsche Bank with its effect of de-

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Overbearing or understating? Frankfurt (Photo: Presse- und Informationsamt der Stadt Frankfurt am Main)

■ MOTORING

How the car drove on until it reached a dead end

Munich cybernetics specialists have spent nearly two years on a 560-page systems study on "Development Prospects for an Automobile Industry Company Using a Function-Oriented Entrepreneurial Strategy."

The conclusions they reach will come as a sad blow to aficionados of man's four-wheeled friend.

The survey was commissioned by Daniel Goeudevert, until recently chief executive officer at Ford of Cologne, from a group led by Professor Frédéric Vester.

It is the first cybernetic study to investigate the structure, function, products and prospects of an automobile industry company in the overall context of man, the environment, transport and society.

The motor-car, based on an outmoded concept, is said to have arrived, by way of linear development, at a dead end.

"In its current form, using conventional propulsion systems and fuels, a costly infrastructure and what are, in some cases, perverted functions, (the car) no longer does present-day transport requirements justice, let alone future transport needs."

In short, to quote the report again: "it is made for the past, not for the future."

Carmakers are warned that "if their technology of the future continues to amount to no more than minor corrections and improvements to conventional engines and vehicles, other innovative firms — and they needn't be from the motor industry — will not be long in taking over."

The Munich cybernetics specialists make it quite clear that restructuring is urgently needed here and now to boost flexibility, function orientation and innovation readiness. Between them they can be sure to break a number of taboos concerning the retention of existing vehicle and engine concepts.

Nearly all details mentioned in the survey indicate that this reorientation will require, as an indispensable prerequisite, a management reorientation.

Carmakers will need, the motor industry is told, to abandon the widespread concept of the tourer as the seemingly unchanging criterion for the motor-car.

New criteria are felt to be needed. A vehicle for the individual is found to need:-

— to be comfortable, tall and short
— to drive noiselessly
— to emit no exhaust fumes
— to be totally recyclable
— to drive safely
— and not to respond too unkindly to mistakes.

Other features and properties are advisable but not indispensable. The car of the future can be:-

— good-looking, elegant and luxurious
— fitted out with sophisticated electronics
— and equipped with automatic control systems.

As a city car in particular, it ought to be:-

— fully manoeuvrable, with wheels turning at angle of up to 90°
— equipped with back wheels that steer, making parking easier
— have a top speed of not more than 50kph (30mph)
— be light in weight, using super-lightweight materials
— a fuel miser, assuming it uses fuel of any kind
— variable and versatile in combination
— suitable for loading on to goods waggons for long-distance rail transport.

The Munich group feels there will be a demand for at least one million vehicles meeting these requirements in the European Community in the years ahead.

"A second-generation car of this kind," they say, "is long overdue in every respect."

The motor industry is felt to have missed out on a crucial development. Critically, Professor Vester and his colleagues comment that "implementation of partial aspects alone, such as attempts to develop a battery-powered Ford Fiesta or a hybrid VW Golf, will not be enough to make a breakthrough."

These and similar attempts are said probably to have failed as a rule because only one component was changed in the overall concept.

The petrol engine was replaced by an electric motor, the fuel tank by a battery. But the remainder of the vehicle, its weight and design and other specifications, not to mention the infrastructure, underwent no change whatever.

Many new features exist but have yet to be networked. Network solutions, including combinations with other modes of transport, as outlined in detail in the report, will probably bring about a breakthrough.

Take nature, where the molecule is said as an "individual vehicle" to penetrate cell walls, join the mass transport system of the blood circulation and then rejoin another organ as an "individual vehicle."

Road-cum-rail links are felt sure to be of decisive importance. Combine them, carmakers are advised, rather than compete.

Carmakers must also part company with what is called "incestuous engineering" and ensure its survival by establishing alternative activities in manufacturing and services.

This must, moreover, not be done along conglomerate lines, by buying up and taking over other firms that have nothing to do with the motor industry, as has lately been a widespread practice.

Function-oriented diversification is counselled.

Wilhelm Hahne
(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 16 June 1989)

Court rejects bid to set speed limits

Bonn is under no legal obligation to impose a 100kph (62mph) speed limit on autobahns and an 80kph (50mph) limit on other trunk roads, a Cologne court has ruled.

The Transport Ministry and the Bundesrat need not impose and enforce these speed limits even if 1,250 fewer road deaths a year would be likely to occur as a result.

The Cologne administrative court found in the government's favour in proceedings launched by 10 members of the public nearly two years ago.

Most of the plaintiffs, led by Dean Horst Kaller, 48, from Munich, were churchmen.

They felt the protection of life was much more important than the free citizen's right to drive at any speed, Herr Kaller told the court.

The state must not ignore the proven fact that a speed limit could save numerous lives and prevent countless serious and minor accidents.

The plaintiffs were road-users themselves and thus had a personal interest in seeing the risk reduced.

Counsel for the Transport Ministry said German autobahns were the safest motorways in Europe.

If an autobahn speed limit were imposed, some autobahn-users would be sure to switch to other trunk roads and roads in built-up areas, which were four times more dangerous.

That could hardly be in anyone's interest. Counsel for the Bundesrat said the principle of sharing power in a constitutionally governed country would be gravely jeopardised if members of the public could, by litigation of this kind, oblige the government to introduce what amounted to legislation.

The court agreed, dismissing the case. Judge Stegh felt the plaintiffs were not entitled to see a specific speed limit of 100kph on autobahns and 80kph on other trunk roads imposed.

Supreme courts permitted proceedings of this kind, but subject to strict conditions, such as if, in this instance, the Transport Ministry had undertaken nothing at all to keep accidents at bay. But this hadn't been the case.

The highway code included a substantial number of specific provisions to fight speeding.

So there could be no question of the lawmakers having clearly neglected their duty to protect the general public.

Speeders were liable to all manner of sanctions even though some motorists continued to drive too fast.

Judge Stegh said it might be a different matter if someone were to apply to the court for a 100kph speed limit on a specific stretch of road with reference to specific accident risks.

Günther Braun/Stephanie Miebach
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 17 June 1989)

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materialisation. Looking over the city from the Domturm makes it clear: Frankfurt is not yet New York but the enthusiasm for architectural experimentation has already led to a loss of individuality.

"Design should create identity and the skyline should be the substitute for (the declining individuality of) the city." Journalist Joachim Riedl does have a point.

The old Frankfurt, both cosmopolitan and sympathetically provincial at the same time, is disappearing. What was typical threatens to become folklore. The new Frankfurt is threatened with a certain interchangeability. Skyscrapers are a trade mark, in a way, of the fate of a metropolis. It will be interesting to see what future city administrations do decide to do.

Wolf Goeltzer
(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 10 June 1989)

■ EXHIBITIONS

Remembering Cleopatra and not forgetting Mark Antony



Few women in history have stimulated the imagination of artists, dramatists, novelists and film-makers as has Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, the seventh of that name in the Ptolemaic dynasty.

She was the daughter of Ptolemy XII and she reigned in Egypt with her brother Ptolemy XIII, to whom she was married, from 51 to 48 BC, and from 47 to 44 BC with her younger brother Ptolemy XIV.

But she became of interest to posterity through her relationship with Julius Caesar. She was his mistress in 48 BC in Alexandria.

She followed him to Rome and bore him a son, nicknamed Caesarion. After the Ides of March in 44 BC she removed her brother and made her three-year-old son, Caesarion, co-regent.

She remained neutral during the civil war of 43-42 BC after Caesar's death. She was invited to Tarsus by Mark Antony and, after a dramatic entrance as Aphrodite reborn, she became his mistress. They were married in Antioch in 37 BC.

Mark Antony made her a present of three islands of the Roman Empire, including Crete. She, on the other hand, presented him with three children, and the grateful Mark Antony declared her "Queen of Kings."

Her name became a myth. She became a legend. It is understandable that the Egyptologists among archaeologists should want to devote one exhibition to the culture and cultural history of her era, when in exhibitions of Ancient Egyptian art so far the concentration has been almost entirely on the middle to later second millenium.

They asked, what is there remaining of Ancient Egyptian culture and art after Alexander had annexed the Kingdom of the Nile to his Macedonian Empire in 332 BC and the Ptolemaic Empire was established, which lasted until Mark Antony's and Cleopatra's death in 30 BC?

Egypt was ruled as a province of Rome from the time of Mark Antony's opponent, Octavius, known as Augustus, until Constantine the Great.

Now Ancient Egyptian culture has shown that it was enduring and authentic, that it was a culture which never surrendered its old traditions stretching back 3,000 years, and never allowed itself to be assimilated by Greek culture, nor later that of the Romans.

There was overlapping, syncretism, as the academics say, but at its heart Egyptian art remained true to its traditional forms during the whole period of Hellenism between 300 BC and 300 AD.

This is just what the archaeologists of the Brooklyn Museum, New York, set out to show in their exhibition *Cleopatra — Egypt at the turn of the era*, first put on in the Brooklyn Museum, then in Detroit, then Munich at the Kunsthalle der Hypo-Kulturstiftung, the only stop it will make in Europe.

It is made up of 134 first-class exhibits, many from the well-endowed Brooklyn Museum itself, but including many items on loan from other museums such as the Berlin Museum of Antiquities and the Munich State Collection of Egyptian Art, which is participating in the show put on in Munich.

Cleopatra herself does not have a central role in the exhibition. There are only two marble busts of her, including the beautiful, well-preserved head from the Berlin Museum of Antiquities.

This head stands at the entrance to the exhibition, next to busts of those men with whom she was connected in love or enmity: Caesar, Mark Antony and Octavius.

The marble bust of Octavius is a reworking of a later Ptolemaic bust. Octavius, the victor at Actium, made himself ubiquitous in this and similar ways throughout the lands of the Nile.

The exhibition naturally falls into two parts since in the Egypt of the post-Alexander period two cultures and two art styles existed side by side, the Ancient Egyptian and the Hellenic.

Among the Egyptian sculptures there is the famous Berlin "Green Head," one of the great masterpieces of the Egyptian later period (first century AD), then the "Green Head" from Boston, a half century older, like the Brooklyn "Black Head."

For Hellenism there is a small alabaster head of Alexander and a marble bust of Ptolemy I, the son of Lagus, one of Alexander's generals. He ruled in Egypt from 323 to 283 BC.

Ptolemy, or Soter I, commenced the great library and museum at Alexandria where Euclid taught mathematics.

The most beautiful objects in the exhibition are several grave stelae which clearly show how, in the Ptolemaic period, Egyptian belief in the hereafter and the forms of presentation on the stelae did not deviate from tradition. There are in the reliefs at most a Hellenistic refinement of form, which emphasises the differences with the old period.

The gilded mummy masks with inlaid jewellery and glass eyes are very impressive.

In the small "treasure cabinet," which is how one of the rooms in the exhibition is named, one can see those golden exhibits in which the continuity of the style can be seen, and which give to the exhibition an additional attraction.

There is a bangle with a winged god, various rings, necklaces, earrings — examples of the splendour of the Ptolemaic court in Alexandria.

A nose for history... Cleopatra. Marble, circa 35-50 BC. (Photo: Catalogue)

Imperial Romans saw in Egypt one of many provinces of the Empire, but they succumbed to the fascination of this ancient culture which has its effects on us today.

Things Egyptian became fashionable in Rome. Several emperors had themselves portrayed in stone dressed in the robes of an Egyptian Pharaoh because they were aware of the strange dignity and majesty of the cult figures of this ancient kingdom.

Even Hadrian had made a red marble statue, larger than life, of his idol Antinous, the lascivious Lydian boy, showing the boy in the robes of a Pharaoh, which Hadrian had put up in his palace at Tivoli.

Many of the exhibits are splendid but I was not impressed by how they were displayed. A dark labyrinth has been created, recalling an Egyptian burial chamber, which leds the visitor through gloomy rooms in which the exhibits invite concentrated inspection — a presentation which was popular in the 1970s, but which today is out-of-date.

The catalogue is published by the Philipp von Zabern publishing house.

Walter Fenn

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 16 June 1989)

A pyramid for Akhnaton and the capital of the empire

Externally the four, tent-like triangles, placed together like a pyramid, recall the billowing sails of a Nile ship.

The edges of the roof construction reach steeply downwards. And when the desert sun's rays concentrate on the window areas pointing steeply upwards, then the modern museum building seems similar to the famous aureole under which the "Heretic King" Akhnaton, or Amenhotep IV, had himself depicted 3,300 years ago on wall reliefs.

Tourists, who go along the Nile, will one day recognise the 45-metre-high pyramid made of natural stone and bright, coated aluminium plates as a symbol of the region.

So far this building is just in model form. It is well known that the Egyptians built pyramids in the middle of the desert 5,000 years ago. They created symbols of their kingdom long before Akhnaton's time with their Houses of the Dead, their tips looming up to the skies.

Even then people came to the Nile to stand in admiration at these wonders of the world. For millennia Egypt has been fashionable as a tourist country.

The Egyptians now want to show another attraction in the form of a pyramid, especially for holidaymakers. A sepulchre for Akhnaton, who was a religious fanatic and who declared there was only one god, manifested in the visible sun's disk, Aton.

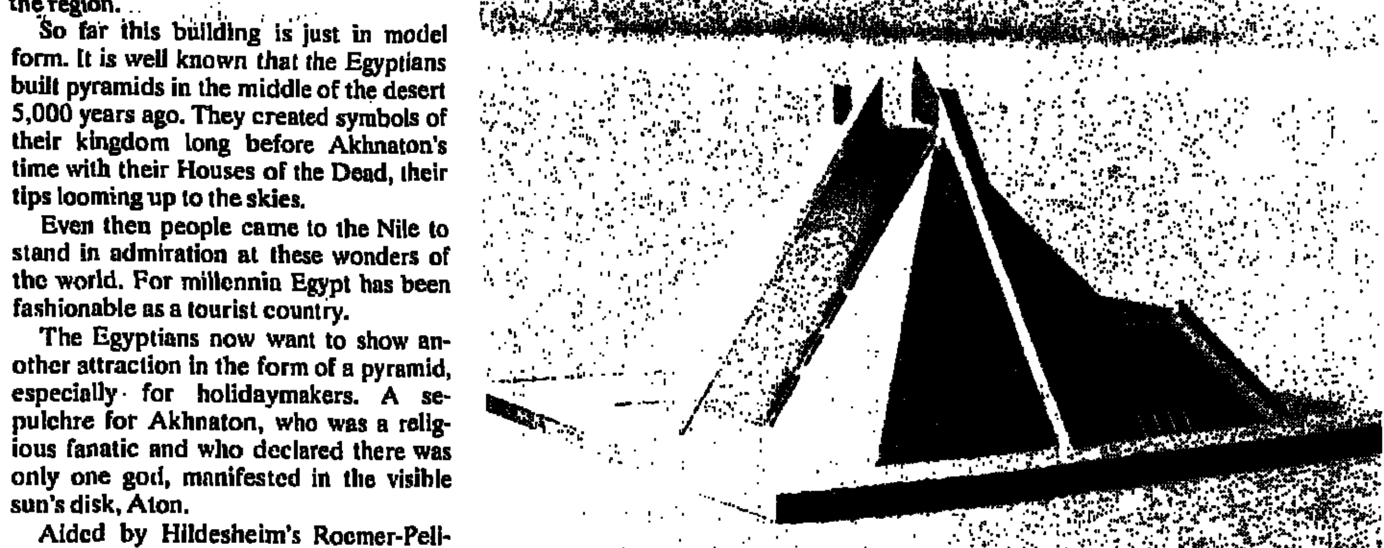
Aided by Hildesheim's Roemer-Pelizaeus Museum a moden pyramid museum will come into being in the province of Minia, halfway between Cairo and Luxor.

It is planned that in five years' time the museum will be open to tourists. The foundation stone was laid in the spring of this year.

The governor of Minia intends to locate in the desert not just a temple of history, a cultural park and an open-air theatre, but a completely independent dormitory town for 120,000 people.

Egyptologist Arne Eggebrecht will handle cultural support for this museum to Akhnaton in the planned town on the spot.

The director of Hildesheim's Roemer-Pelizaeus Museum intends to set up a home for the reformist Pharaoh of the New Kingdom, and decorate it with treasures from his period.



More than just a temple of history... model of planned museum.
(Photo: P. Windszus/Pelizaeus Museum)

Klaus Lipinski, former head of Hildesheim's structural engineering department, has drawn up the first sketches. Andreas Wannenmacher, a young Bielefeld architect, is supervising this project, a cultural export from North Germany.

Akhnaton and his era will be presented at 13 different levels on an area of approximately 3,000 square metres. The people from Hildesheim are also planning a large conference centre for international congresses with cabins for interpreters, a library, offices and a cafeteria.

The building will cost DM15 million. The Egyptians want to pay for this modern temple to history themselves, but the people from Hildesheim have asked the federal Foreign Ministry to help out financially with the planning. A German company has also given assurances of support.

The Egyptians made contact with the Roemer-Pelizaeus Museum 13 years ago when the first Akhnaton exhibition was put on in Hildesheim. The then Egyptian Minister for the Arts, who came to the opening, suggested twinning between Hildesheim and El Minia, the provincial capital.

Eventually the Egyptian department of antiquities asked Eggebrecht to set up an Akhnaton Museum in Minia.

Minia, Egypt's second largest province, is in the most productive part of the Nile Delta as far as archaeology is con-

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■ FILMS

Lots of highlights at a low-budget festival



Private detective Scotty in Pim de la Parra's film *Lost in Amsterdam* gets a fee of 10,000 Ecus, a point which qualifies the latest work of the Dutch director, and there are many others, for its inclusion in the 4th European Low Budget Film Forum.

A sum like that, which corresponds to about DM20,000, is enough to get a film into the cinemas in a small country, as a survey by the European Film Distribution Organisation shows, an organisation which, since it was founded last year, has tried hard to fill a gap: 80 per cent of all European films never cross over the frontiers of the country in which they are made.

There are two million Ecus available to cover 50 per cent of film distribution costs with the proviso that a film has a distributor in three countries.

So far 17 films have been introduced to a wider public in this way with sums extending from 16,000 Ecus for the Irish film *Reefer and the Model* to 59,000 Ecus for *Babette's Feast*. This is a solid step forward for the promotion of the European film.

Apart from the Ecus comment Pim de la Parra's film was one of the more noteworthy films at this year's Forum. The film was made in black-and-white, and the actors and crew waived a salary for a percentage of the earnings.

It was shown at this year's Rotterdam Film Festival and one could clearly see the pleasure the actors and crew got from making it, an ironic play on the myths of popular cinema.

Otherwise the potential big attractions at the Low Budget Forum were not so bright this year, with the exception of Aki Kaurismäki's *Ariel* which was enthusiastically applauded by the Hamburg audience as it was at the Berlinale Forum.

There was considerable doubt that the latest film by Polish director Krzysztof Zanussi, *Wherever you are*, qualified for participation in the Low Budget Film Forum, but the organisers gave assurances that the film did qualify.

This film, dealing with the guilt and madness of the Second World War in this country, was too bland, too much was placed on the short appearance of Vladim Glowna as a German doctor, included to qualify the film for participation in German film support funds — in this case provided by North Rhine-Westphalia.

Ildiko Enyedi is a young director from Hungry. Her *Mein 20 Jahrhundert* had a stylistic uniformity about it, but it was given an award at Cannes.

The film is set in New York, the jungles of Burma, Hamburg's "Speicherstadt," red-brick warehouses in the port, and Africa.

The locations were real or studio sets: the narrative documentary or melodramatic. Tibor Mátés' poetic black and white photography dovetailed the contrasts of the film neatly with one another and made out of the tale of twin sisters a puzzle of connections.

The films with a Hamburg setting did not cause much enthusiasm this time round, which is why Hark Bohm had to display his "Golden Filmband," awarded in Berlin for *Yasmin*, before the cameras of the local press yet again.

There was more to be said about the commercial and artistic success of *Yasmin* than for Andi Engel's first film, *Melancholia*. He is a critic, distributor and producer.

The film is an Anglo-German co-production, filmed in London, Hamburg and Florence with an international cast including Jeroen Krabbe, Susannah York and Ulrich Wildgruber.

The story tells of a disillusioned art critic living in London who had been actively involved in the 1968 student protest movement.

He gets a call from a former comrade-in-arms, now a respected Hamburg lawyer, who tells him that a Chilean doctor, involved in torturing and murdering resistance fighters, is to visit London. The lawyer demands that his old comrade should join him in assassinating the Chilean during his visit.

The dialogue, the action and the characters just fo not come together in this film.

There was also some cheeky cinema on the fringe of the Low Budget film Forum: the "No-Lo-Night" for instance, the long evening of short films, mainly with contributions from the No Budget Festival which took place in Hamburg just a few weeks ago.

There was some exciting cinema for example in the films by Romuald Karmakar; *Coup de Boule*, dealing with the leisure-time pleasures of French soldiers, shown earlier in Berlin; cock fighting on a French national holiday in *Gallodrome*, and a new breed of fighting dogs, pitbulls, and their owners, in Hamburg's St Pauli district in the film *Hunde aus Samt und Stahl*.

Karmakar gets involved in characters and facts and shows them without comment.

He dedicated *Gallodrome* to Charles Nillaford, an American author who has just been discovered by this country and whose novel, "Cockfight," was filmed a few years ago by Monte Hellman.

Monte Hellman is himself a director of consequence with such films as the existential Western *The Shooting*, and the laconic road movie *Two-Lane Blacktop* to his credit. He is the main character in Karmakar's latest film, *Hellman Rider*, which was just ready in time and was shown especially in Hamburg.

It is a direct interview film which shows some of the difficulties with which Karmakar has had to contend over the past few years. In any event Hellman is not the most communicative of men. The answers to the questions were barely adequate.

For fans, however, it is well worth seeing and gives some insight into Hellman's latest film, *Iguana*, which still has to be shown in Berlin.

There was an emphasis this year on the "Cinema Beur," films made by second-generation Arabs living in France.

These films are relatively unknown in the Federal Republic except for the three films by Mehdi Charef, including *Tee im Harem des Archimedes*, and Mahmoud Zemmouri's *Nimm die 10,000 Francs und verschwinde*, which was shown on television some years ago.

Perhaps they are little known because they cannot be brought down to a common denominator beyond the border of life between two cultures.

These films range from unusual perspectives of the conclusion of the Algerian War, Zemmouri's *Les folles années du twist*, to the hopeless situation of young people in Paris living between drugs and prostitution, Okacha Touito's *Le Rescapé*, to Abdelkrim Bahloul's *Le thé à la menthe*, the tragi-comic story of a young Arab whose mother suddenly appears before his door and wants a share of the affluence which he has described in his letters, to Merzak Allouache's sensitively told love-story *Un amour à Paris*, in which student protest leader of the 1960s Daniel Cohn-Bendit (known then as Red Danny) plays a character who complains of his similarity to Daniel Cohn-Bendit, but then reacts in a very self-mocking way.

Unlike other festivals Hamburg's is a working forum. In the workshops reports were made on the position of European film support, particularly knowing how to handle the ghost on the hori-

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Looking out, in Thomas Bauch's *Maria von den Sternen*.
(Photo: Impuls Film)

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rangement as more long-term and more extensive. "Siemens has considerable capabilities in factory automation, communications systems, medical technology and in power station technology." This is his main reason for "having sought out Siemens as our partners." Mr Tanii said that his company was ready "to cooperate in other fields when they appeared." Herr Kaske should not rule that out.

Matsushita has high hopes of this joint venture. Having a foot in the single European market and supplying their own European production factories with locally-manufactured parts are not the sole factors of importance for the Japanese.

"In Japan we have produced passive component parts mainly for civilian purposes. With the help of Siemens we hope to extend this to industrial and military purposes," said Mr Tanii. This agreement must first get into its stride. The aim is for a turnover of between DM700m to DM800m for the first year; it should quickly rise to a billion marks.

The Siemens range will determine the range as a whole at the beginning. Matsushita products will be gradually introduced. But the Japanese will help with modern production technology from the beginning. A Siemens spokesman said: "Passive component parts are a sector in which Matsushita has by far the most technological know-how."

(Die Welt, Bonn, 16 June 1989)

Cleopatra

Continued from page 10

cerned. In 1370 BC Akhnaton built here for himself and his sun-god, Aton, a new capital of the empire. He gave it the name Achet Aton. It is now known by the name of the neighbouring village, Tell El Amarna.

Arne Eggebrecht intends to place 1,500 objects from the Amarna era in the Akhnaton Museum. The most impressive are 20 colossal statues, about five metres high, which show the Sun Pharoah. Akhnaton had most of them put up when he still lived in the old capital of the empire, Thebes, in Upper Egypt.

These colossal statues were smashed up rather. Eggebrecht and his fellow-workers have looked for the individual pieces from the top to the toe of the statues in various storerooms.

From the temple storerooms at Karnak he got hold of a part of the so-called "Talatat" blocks, the 50-centimetre-long bricks with which Akhnaton had his city built.

Amarna and Ramses' city are the least excavated in the Nile Delta. There remain preserved not only grave finds but also finds from everyday life. Beds, stools, simple furniture and the oldest toilet in the world will be on show in the Akhnaton pyramid.

It goes without saying that the province wants to make capital out of its cultural heritage. Tourism is very important for Egypt, a developing country. This is why there are conflicts of interest about the care and maintenance of the archaeological sites.

The Minister of Tourism does his utmost to attract tourists, but this can be a threat to objects from antiquity.

With his project "help for self-help" Arne Eggebrecht hopes to be able to prevent tourism getting out of hand.

He does not want to establish just a museum in Minia. Much more importantly a research centre will be established there to investigate the Amarna era. The exhibits will be got ready by Germans and Egyptians working together, reconstructions made and a catalogue produced.

When everything is all wrapped and the Museum is built Cairo has promised that Akhnaton's sarcophagus from the Egyptian Musuem in Cairo will be sent to Minia. The famous bust of Nefertiti, the most splendid work of Amarna art and a tourist symbol for the province on the Nile, will remain in Berlin, however.

People from the German Oriental Society brought this valuable find to Berlin before the First World War.

Karin Dzionara

(Bremer Nachrichten, 2 June 1989)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

A tourist island caught in an ecological disaster

Sylt is the most northern and the largest of the North Frisian islands in the North Sea. It lies off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark. Fishing and agriculture used to dominate its economy but they have long since given way to tourism. Tourism has now become the main income earner for the 6,000 people on the 40 kilometre long island. There are now about 3.5 million "overnight stays" a year. But things are not looking good. The unruly North Sea is relentlessly demolishing the west coast; and pollution is looming as a more immediate threat. Algae and dead seals last summer littered the beaches of all the islands in the group. Johannes Voswinkel takes up the story for the Hamburg-based weekly, *Die Zeit*.

Every morning Peter Schnittgard runs the 300 metres from his home to the dunes in Westerland on the North Sea holiday island of Sylt to take a discreet, precautionary look at the beach.

As head of tourism for the easterly villages of Sylt he has horror visions, after last summer's toll of dead and dying seals and piles of algae, of dead seals and algae littering the beach.

They certainly littered the beach as far as the media were concerned. TV camera crews even brought dead seals with them to film on the beach, he recalls.

Unsurprisingly, he wasn't amused. That sort of thing is bad for business, something a holiday resort can well do without.

Pictures of the ailing North Sea are sure to have discouraged many people who might otherwise have visited the islands on the spur of the moment from heading for Sylt, Amrum and Föhr.

Föhr was hard hit, Sylt and Amrum even harder; in comparison with the holiday and spa trade other economic activities on the islands are insignificant.

The islands have finally woken up to the threat and are all in favour of environmental protection — and often making common cause with people many tourist managers and local politicians disparaged as "loony Greens and Jeremiahs" a few years ago.

Some local officials, such as Föhr's Nickels Olufs, are reluctant to call a spade a spade. Rather than mention dead seals he shamefacedly refers to "the situation."

Old habits die hard. A trace of the sweep it under the carpet approach comes to light in Herr Schnittgard's comment that should there be a fresh epidemic of dead seals it would be better to collect them at 4 a.m. than at 7 a.m. — like last year.

"But we don't want to hide or to gloss over anything," he hastens to add. Glasnost is the byword.

Local politicians and tourist managers would soonest talk at length about all the good they are doing the environment. The sewage farm in Wyk on Föhr precipitates phosphates and converts ammonium, an oxygen-and fish-killer, into nitrates.

In order not to contribute toward further fertilisation of the North Sea a denitrification unit is planned too. On Sylt Kampen and Wenningstedt already have one — as a voluntary local authority contribution toward environmental protection.

Amrum shopkeepers have banned detergents containing phosphates and spraycans containing CFC gas.

From next January Amrum is to be a plastic bag-free zone; 100,000 cotton bags are already in stock and on sale at DM1.50 each, including a 20-pfennig donation to Greenpeace.

All three islands have green dustbins with separate compartments for various categories of waste.

Many tourist managers and local mayors support the environmentalists with deeds as well as words. "We want to put our own house in order," Herr Schnittgard says, "so we can thump on the table where others are concerned."

Since March Sylt's holiday resorts have employed a full-time worker, Claudia Gallikowski, as their environmental protection officer.

She is a keen Greenpeace activist and has no qualms about voicing her views. Talking with people and convincing them are the only weapons she has as an environmental protection counsellor.

She is a 29-year-old biology graduate who works in a redbrick house amid rose-lined hedgerows near the embankment, north of Westerland.

Her office is pale yellow, with almost empty showcases in which a few shells are displayed. It looks more like the disused stockroom of a senior school biology lab than an office.

"I enjoy being out here," she says. "It's so peaceful and quiet." The phone rings. It's the local council. They want her to make a short speech at a ceremony to be held to mark the beginning of a planting campaign.

They want her to talk about cleansing agents around the house. She will be happy to do so. Told a new machine to clear dog litter is to be inaugurated, she says that is a subject in which she is less interested.

"They use an incredibly large quantity of cleansing agents here on Sylt," she says, putting the receiver back on the hook.

"Thousands of apartments a day are scrubbed and cleaned. But it's hard to make people rethink things when they have to cater for 400,000 visitors a year."

Her powers of persuasion will need to be exercised with staying-power; if they



have any quantifiable effect it will be a long-term one.

Tourist managers have joined forces with nature conservation organisation such as the Mudflats Protection Station and the Jordsand Society to popularise back-to-nature holidays.

They offer all-inclusive tours, guided tours of the mudflats and the coast, with slide shows and brochures printed on plain grey recycled paper amid the glossies.

They appeal to holidaymakers to be careful about birds in nesting areas and to use as few cleansing agents as possible. But the thump on the table is reduced to a fingertip stroke where cars are concerned.

Off the record many local politicians will readily admit that the cars which line the island's streets would be worthy of a tailback on the Ruhr autobahn in the high season when 120,000 holidaymakers visit Sylt.

Yet none of the North Frisian islands has summoned the courage of its convictions and banned cars entirely. They just impose speed limits and build a few more cycle tracks.

Even so, public transport on Amrum and Föhr has gained in popularity. Buses run at half-hourly intervals in the daytime. On Föhr you can even take a bicycle on board.

Yet on Sylt, with its inadequate, private bus services, no such solution is in sight. "The car is the only way to get around the island," says Stephan Beck of the hotels and catering association.

The Bundesbahn, or Federal Railways, might take over the island's bus network and lay on luggage trailers, it has been suggested. But nothing has yet been done.

Sylt, Föhr and Amrum people look on helplessly as toxic waste is pumped endlessly into the North Sea via the Elbe, the Rhine and the Weser, as waste is incinerated on board ships at sea and low-grade acid waste is pumped into the North Sea.

Outside the 12-mile zone oil tanks and ships' bilges can be pumped out with no fear of consequences — except the constant menace of oil slicks.

Last year environmental campaigners collected nearly 600 seabirds caked in oil on Amrum beaches. They — the birds — seldom survive.

They either die of oil poisoning from oily water they have drunk or survive the cleansing procedure as neurotic birds incapable of surviving on their own.

The Mudflat Protection Station runs information centres to draw attention to the North Sea's daily diet of toxins. But how much endangered environment are holidaymakers prepared to stomach?

"A great deal," says Martin Schmidt of the Wyk protection station, "as long as nature is presented in a sufficiently fascinating manner."

All he and his colleagues then need to do, he feels, is to show visitors how they can make a personal contribution toward ensuring the mudflats' survival — both on holiday and at home in their own washbasin.

"What matters is to steer clear of the hectoring approach," he says.

Visitors' fingers are dipped into a tank full of sludge instead at the Kurhaus in Wyk. They can then feel for themselves the wide range of marine life in the North Sea.

Exhibits include a cubic metre of mudflat sludge, beach crabs and mussels and an aquarium. And: "Please use your fingers!"

The pulsating sucker of a live cockle, seen through a microscope, looks like a science fiction monster on the silver screen.

"Visitors are most impressed," he says, "by the map into which we have stuck pins to mark where we have found dead seals on Föhr."

The first 200 pins, with their black pinheads, completely covered the map. Another 100 could be added if there was room for them.

Strange though it may seem, the epidemic of dead seals gave the environmental campaigners a tremendous boost, with more people than ever before appreciating their work.

Campaigners of this kind often make life difficult for each other, jealously guarding their respective neck of the woods.

Many environmental campaigners resent the national park exhibition at the Rathaus in Wyk, feeling it to be a rival rather than a fellow-campaigner, as it were.

The Mudflats National Park was set up four years ago by the *Land* of Schleswig-Holstein to protect the flora and fauna of the mudflats.

It has a staff of nearly 30. They face the daunting task of gaining the trust of environmental campaigners who have ground their axes for longer — and of convincing local people, which is arguably an even taller order.

It is a matter of principle. The Frisian islanders feel the national park has been imposed on them by mainlanders and tennis-shoe scientists, and they are nothing if not stubborn.

"Better dead than a slave" is their motto. It doesn't just adorn many a plaque. The idea survives in many local minds.

The Frisians have long abandoned their time-honoured tradition of killing alien counts and princes, but many of them are gunning — metaphorically speaking — for Environment Minister Berndt Heydemann in Kiel.

Clear-cut interests are at stake. Local herd-owners are reluctant to reduce the number of their sheep that graze on the salt meadows beyond the embankment as demanded.

They claim centuries-old hunting rights too and are determined to continue to shoot about 5,000 brace of ducks and geese a year.

Environmentalists welcome the national park — up to a point. It is certainly better than nothing. They are also encouraged by the beginnings of cooperation with the islands' tourist managers.

Herr Schnittgard for one is most encouraged by his daily jaunt to the dunes. He sees holidaymakers, not dead seals.

May this year was the best May ever with nearly 70 per cent of beds booked.

Yet appearances may be deceptive. No one can say for sure that there will be no more dead seals, while marine algae continue to be overfertilised by phosphate-enriched water from the rivers.

Ecology-conscious holidaymakers are still the exception. Unlike last year, guides say, tourists frequently fail to understand why they are asked not to dart to and fro among the dunes. *Johannes Voswinkel*

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 16 June 1989)

Sylt in summer. But for how much longer?

(Photo: dpa)

■ HEALTH

The differences between men and women

Women are generally peaceful, men aggressive, or so it is said. Where biology fails to account for the difference, crime statistics are cited to prove the point.

Yet the difference between the sexes is said by two women doctors not to be so great as this generalisation might imply. They disagree, however, on the conclusion to be drawn from their findings.

Women can be moody, hypochondriac, depressive, sensitive, anxious, hostile and irritable.

They argue, let fly with the crockery, jeer at their nearest and dearest, scream and shout, feel like hurting someone.

Men in contrast are violent in their aggression, they hit out — at people and things.

These comparisons have the tried and trusted look of clichés, but scientific evidence indicates that they are accurate.

Cécile Ernst of the Burghölzli psychiatric clinic, Zürich, and Amélie Mummenday of Münster University psychology department aren't interested in bearing out longstanding prejudices. Analytical explanations are what interest them.

At the Bamberg conference of the German Women Doctors' Association they outlined research findings which, while including a number of new features, largely bear out everyday assumptions.

"Are men more aggressive than women?" is a question that reminds Professor Mummenday of the old bone of contention: "Are women better drivers then men?"

In both cases, she said, the answer was not better or worse; it was different.

Yet in public debate the female sex was in general positively rated. Women were said by virtue of their chromosomes to be more peaceful, more protective of life and thus predestined to help resolve social conflicts.

Aggressive behaviour is, in contrast, seen as bad and unsociable. Men are seen, on biological grounds, as the cause of oppression and war, as culprits; women as victims.

Professor Mummenday says hormones play no more than a subordinate role. "Aggression is highly situation-dependent" and linked to the emotional burden of environmental influences.

Crime statistics show mothers to beat children more often than fathers. They are also to blame — not entirely, of course, — for child abuse.

Laboratory experiments show women to respond defensively and men to respond offensively to provocation.

Women thus tend toward behaviour that leads to mental or social harm, whereas men tend to resort to violence.

Surveys of marital disputes show 68 per cent of husbands and 58 per cent of wives to have been battered by their spouse at some time or other.

Professor Mummenday attributes these differences to traditional sex-related roles and expectations. Male aggression is permitted; female aggression isn't.

The more the social difference between the sexes is offset, the greater the similarity between them.

Professor Ernst disagrees. Her behavioural analysis deals with the perceived state of health of the sexes.

Younger women are twice more likely than men to suffer from serious, psychotic bouts of depression.

Their health is less acutely at risk, yet they more frequently feel ill and take much more medicine than men.

Men, in contrast, are more susceptible to killers such as alcoholism and coronary disease.

Women much more intensively experience psychic and somatic processes. "They concentrate on changes of mood, look for their causes, talk with others about them and thereby intensify them," Professor Ernst says.

They also react much more sensitively to the way their family feels. Women questioned felt they were more anxious, more hostile, more sensitive and more depressive than men with mental states.

Female aggression — irritability — is said to be much more intimate than its male counterpart.

While men "act it out," women tend to subtler approaches, such as ridiculing or terrorising someone they love. They tend to be uncontrolled in their bouts of emotion or urge to destroy something.

Professor Ernst attributes to biological criteria the fact that women experience mental processes more keenly, whereas men have better vision.

Women, she says, outperform men in the other four senses: hearing, touch, taste and smell. Their keener sense of how they and others feel is both a strength and a weakness. Women are more unstable, more irritable, more intolerant. They are also better able than men to establish and maintain close, spontaneous and trusting relationships.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 24 June 1989)

Classical industrial illnesses decline, but workers still fall ill

Manual labour has grown less strenuous in most factories, yet people seem to be off work because of illness more often than they used to be.

Wear and tear of the body's support apparatus and locomotor system are on the increase. So are heart and circulatory complaints.

"Over half in-house job transfers on health grounds are due to complaints of the back and joints," Bodo Marschall, chief works doctor at Volkswagen, told a works medicine conference in Wolfsburg.

Roughly 140 works doctors, psychologists and representatives of health insurance schemes, Ministries and associations from several countries attended the conference.

Workers no longer have to move heavy car batteries around singlehandedly. Car axle assembly has long been handled by industrial robots. Working overhead, which is obviously tiring, is no longer necessary.

Yet assembly line workers and office staff alike are increasingly complaining of backache, stiff joints and inflammation of the muscles.

Classical industrial diseases are, in contrast, very much on the decline.

Complaints of bones, muscles and connective tissue account for 23 per cent of industrial injury pensions awarded in the Federal Republic of Germany. Even among white-collar workers the proportion is 18 per cent.

Circulatory complaints are even more widespread, accounting for 34 per cent (blue-collar workers) to 43 per cent (white-collar staff) of industrial disability pension awards.

Doctors feel bad eating habits and a general lack of exercise are mainly to blame, affecting even children and young people.

"Many apprentices have a faulty posture when they start work with us," Dr Marschall says. An ergonomic workplace then, as a rule, comes too late to improve matters to any great extent.

A survey of VDU workplaces at a Volkswagen subsidiary has revealed that many staff who work at computer screens don't sit properly.

"Instead of sitting up straight and leaning back slightly," labour expert Uwe Brandenburg told the conference, "they lean forward and let their shoulders sag."

A biofeedback programme is under way to try and impress upon office staff the need for a healthier posture. Sensors are attached to their backs to measure the tension of the upper trapezius muscle. Whenever the rating indicates a harmful posture a buzzer buzzes to remind staff to sit up straight.

A week's training was all they needed to get it right, Herr Brandenburg said. There were then far fewer complaints of muscular pain and backache.

These programmes are expensive. The experiment cost over DM30,000. So they can't be used on a wide scale.

A back muscle training programme described by VW works doctor Walter Kuhn sounded more promising.

It was launched last autumn when machinists at Volkswagen's Hanover works began complaining of backache.

They were first briefed on the back, on the back muscles and on the way in which posture can affect the muscles. They were then taught 15 muscle exercises, each taking only a few seconds.

The results speak for themselves. Complaints largely ceased. Only one of the six women who had applied for a job transfer still insisted on being transferred.

The training programme ended in February, but most of the machinists — all women — have continued with their exercise routine, Dr Kuhn said.

Such prompt success is exceptional, although staff frequently expect immediate results, especially when the programme is carried out during working hours.

"When success can be quantified," one conference delegate said, "programmes of this kind can be more readily undertaken."

Others felt it would be better not to assess everything in terms of marks and pfennigs, of sick leave and time off work.

"When staff feel better afterwards and get on better with each other," they said, "that alone is a most important point."

A change in staff behaviour is often only the second-best solution, the two-day conference was told.

The best is a change in the way work processes are organised, but that is frequently ruled out on cost grounds.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 26 June 1989)

■ FRONTIERS

A lifeboat and her men always ready to take on the might of the North Sea

Patrolling the German Bight is all part of the day's work for the crew of the Cuxhaven lifeboat *Hermann Helms*.

The sea is calm. Force 5 winds, north-east veering to south-east. Visibility moderate. Rain.

But the past three days were another matter. Seas were heavy, especially in the Baltic. Force 10 gales. Waves as tall as a house.

In Schilksee marina, Kiel, 50 boats were torn loose from their moorings. Some sank. Damage ran into the millions.

But it could have been much worse. Lifeboat crews worked round the clock. Many a boat-owner can count himself lucky his yacht is still afloat.

The crew of the *Hermann Helms*, one of the German lifeboat fleet's most up-to-date craft, do a hard day's work all the year round.

But autumn, when strong gales whip up the waters of the North Sea, can be particularly demanding. So can spring, when privateboat-owners sail their yachts out of winter quarters.

"One boat in three," says Claus Wolter, 47, captain of the *Hermann Helms*, "runs aground on the sandbank sailing across the Elbe to Brunsbüttel."

Many motor yachts have engine or gearbox trouble on their first spring outing. "They have engine failure and are caught on the hope."

Then there are the windsurfers who are driven out to sea with little or no chance of making it back to the shore on their own.

Were it not for the lifeboat crews they would definitely be for Davy Jones' locker.

But most lifeboat missions are logged to help merchant shipping, and crews are on standby 24 hours a day.

At 03.38 one morning the crew are notified by the Cuxhaven emergency desk of a collision near Buoy 34 in the Elbe. An unknown vessel is listing badly and seems likely to sink.

In three minutes Wolter, his nautical officer and his two mechanics are ready to set sail. The engines of their 27-metre (88ft) cruiser are constantly kept ticking over and at the ready.

The lifeboat's 3,200hp ship's diesels chug out into the icy North Sea and head straight into thick fog. Visibility zero.

There are two dots on the radar screen. One is the freighter *Orange Coral*, the other a liferaft.

The crew of the shipwrecked *MS Beatrines* are on board the liferaft: her badly-injured captain, helmsman, seaman and cook. They are barely clothed and frozen stiff.

They just managed to fire a Very pistol. Their ship sank before their eyes only two minutes after the collision.

Two hours later all four of them are in Cuxhaven, still in a state of shock but saved by Claus Wolter and his crew.

German lifeboats logged over 2,000 emergency missions last year. The German Lifeboat Institution is in charge of search and rescue services in the German sectors of the North Sea and the Baltic.

In 1988 alone 334 shipwrecked sailors were rescued, 1,008 people in peril taken on board and 111 ships saved from sinking.

The institution has a fleet of over 37 lifeboats. They range from the 44-metre (144ft) Heligoland-based cruiser *Wilhelm Kaisen*, with her crew of 12, to smaller, handy boats.

They are manned by 130 full-time crewmen and 200 volunteers.

The institute's patron is Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker. Its work is indispensable for a country with a coastline. Yet it is entirely self-financing.

Last year it made ends meet with a budget of nearly DM18m, consisting of membership dues and private donations.

Nearly 10 per cent of its funds is raised by way of coins and notes people push into the slots of cans and collecting boxes in shops, bars and public places.

Missions are coordinated by the Rescue Coordination Centre in Bremen, which relays emergency calls to local units by radio.

There is little point in sending a boat out to the scene of the accident, says the RCC's Eberhard Ortmann:

"Tides and winds can make a craft drift miles from the scene of the accident by the time help arrives."

That is why the Bremen coordination centre has a computer full of marine data that works out where the lifeboat should be heading, which can be miles from the scene of the accident.

Lifeboats are equipped to the latest international standards. They are strictly seagoing, self-righting in even the strongest gale, with computerised navigation aids.

They also have powerful pumps to put out fires and a wide range of medical and rescue equipment.

The *Hermann Helms*, for instance, has a draught of 1.60 metres (5ft 3in), so she — and others like her — can sail where other vessels would long have run aground.

Her electronic charts enable her to carry out precise manoeuvres even at top speed, 26 knots, in thick fog.

Sophisticated technology alone is not enough. The nautical know-how of experienced sailors is indispensable.

That is why you have to be 35 or 40 before joining a lifeboat crew — and to accept a year's probation.

"Our crews have salt water in their blood," says Andreas Lubkowitz, the institution's public relations officer. "We have no time for young fly-by-nights or adventurers."

Says Captain Wolter: "You need to be a bit of an idealist to join us." Yet he sees himself as anything but a romantic.

He worked on a trawler until he joined the lifeboat institution eight years ago. He spent up to 120 days at sea sailing to Newfoundland.

He earned good money. He earns nowhere near as much as a lifeboat captain, but the job is safe and his working hours are clear-cut.

He and his crew are on board for a fortnight, working round the clock. Then another crew takes over, leaving them with a fortnight for the family.

"That's not bad," says mechanic Klaus John, who used to work on an oil rig. On board the *Hermann Helms*, he says, everyone is his own boss; no-one tells you what to do.

The institution gives crews a free hand on board. "We are fully responsible for the decisions we take," he says.

He is only too happy his employer is a private organisation. "We aren't a public body, thank heavens. Otherwise people would soon lose interest."

In the public sector, he feels, you have to submit a written application for every little detail, and the authorities end up by cancelling even your toilet paper.

The lifeboat institution's figures speak for themselves. Six per cent of the budget is spent on administration, nearly 90 per cent on rescue work.

Even routine work keeps crews busy; it doesn't have to be a spectacular mission. Sophisticated machinery has to be maintained, technical equipment serviced.

The crew of a ship like the *Hermann Helms* come to feel it is their second home and look after it accordingly. Everything is as clean as a whistle; there isn't a speck of rust. "A troublemaker would soon be out on his ear," says one of the crew. "We have to be able to rely on each other."

Today's routine patrol is more like an excursion. The location of marker buoys between Cuxhaven and Neuwerk in the Elbe estuary has to be checked.

Nearly 60,000 ships a year head this way, making Hamburg the world's busiest port.

Buoys mark the shipping lane, but the channels that can be used at low tide vary, while buoys are often found to have moved from where they are indicated on the chart after heavy gales.

They are checked by the crew, their positions noted and charts supplied with the new positions.

The crew can be sure there will be fresh storms. Man will never be able to tame the North Sea *entirely*. *But* unlike the lifeboat pioneers, he isn't *completely* at the elements' mercy either.

The institution will definitely remember the old-timers when it celebrates its 125th anniversary next year. They went out in rowing boats. Many gave their lives in the attempt to rescue others.

Forty-two have died over the years. "Gale force 10 is a bit windy," the mechanic says. Are they worried?

"A little pitching and tossing?" says Captain Wolter. "At the funfair you have to pay for the privilege.

"We are like the railways. *We run in all* weathers. But unlike them, *we really do!*"

Rolf Bauerdick

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 24 June 1989)

Continued from page 11

zon, namely the single European market of 1992 and its effects on the film industry.

The prospect does not seem rosy if films can be beamed to other countries via satellite, for instance, before they are shown in cinemas in a particular country.

An harmonisation of film support is more urgently needed than ever before when a case like *Melancholia* is brought to mind for instance. Its artistic emphasis had to be changed to Hamburg so as to meet the guidelines for support there.

Dieter Kosslick, who founded the Low Budget Festival and who has been responsible for the financial support given to films in Hamburg for the past year, said: "I believe we must alter the guidelines totally."

This provocative remark went unnoticed, like so many other critical points which were raised.

This time there were a lot of questions which went unanswered.

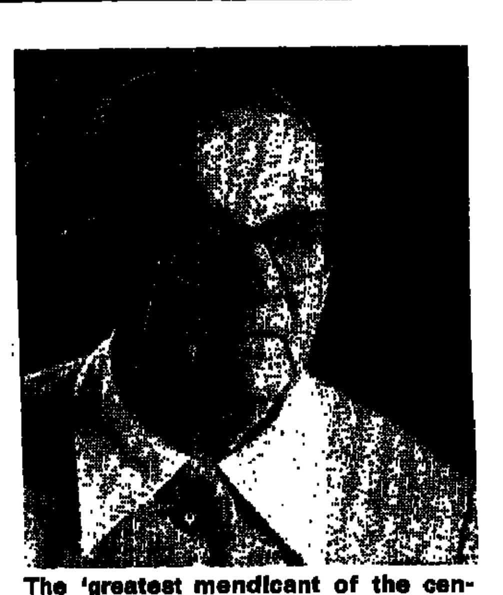
Frank Arnold

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 17 June 1989)

■ HORIZONS

One woman's fight for the victims of a concentration camp's diet of death

Lathyrus is a type of sweetpea. Small quantities can be fed to cattle but not to humans. Ingestion causes a disease called *lathyrism* which can lead to, among other things, paralysis of the legs. In 1942 and 1943, Jews in a remote concentration camp in the Ukraine were fed the pea as a staple diet for several months. For many, it was a death sentence. Many were so weak and crippled when moved on that they had to be wheeled out of the camp in wheelbarrows. Others thought they had escaped the disease's ravages — but the symptoms often first appear after a decade or more so the list of victims continued to increase over the years. Most of the surviving inmates are in Israel. Many are paralysed and have impaired hearing and sight. Charlotte Petersen has been helping the victims of Wapniarka concentration camp for 30 years. The 85 year old has built up a list of about 2,000 donors whose contributions go towards making life a little easier for victims of one of the leser-known tragedies of the last war. Friedrich W. Husemann reports for the Cologne daily, *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger*.



The 'greatest mendicant of the century' . . . Charlotte Petersen. (Photo: M. DuMont Schauberg/Archiv)

Charlotte Petersen collects almost half a million marks every year which she passes on to former inmates of a little-known Ukranian concentration camp who are now living in Israel.

She is 85 and lives in Dillenburg, west of *Marburg*. She has been involved in helping sick Romanian Jews for the past 30 years.

When she opens the door to a visitor and shows the way to the conservatory to offer home-made cakes and fruit juice, she gives the impression of being one of those worthy ladies in British films in bed-and-breakfast boarding houses.

The house is on a slope and the rooms are almost monastic in appearance. This is the headquarters of the Wapniarka Charity.

The half million marks Frau Petersen collects every year goes to help survivors of the Wapniarka concentration camp in the Ukraine, along the railway line half way between L'vov and Odessa. It was set up by the Germans and put under the control of the Romanian military authorities.

About 1,500 to 2,000 Romanian Jews were incarcerated there between September 1942 and January 1943.

Frau Petersen said about this concentration camp that "it never became world famous such as Auschwitz or Maidanek, but what was unique for the inmates of this camp is that they were fed on lathyrus peas." Lathyrus is the sweetpea genus of papilionaceae.

Local farmers were well aware that these peas could only be fed to cattle in very small quantities. The inmates of the concentration camp, however, got nothing else but a soup made from lathyrus peas to eat for months on end — mainly the men who had a large appetite after a day's forced labour were fed on them.

With scientific meticulousness, Dr Arthur Kessler, a neurologist, has described the suffering and death of the first victims of lathyrism.

"In November 1942 a 51-year-old man suffered from bowel disorders. He suffered from stiffness and paralysis of his extremities. It was [illegible] syphilis and an anti-syphilis therapy was applied with iodine and bismuth.

"The patient's condition deteriorated very quickly. At the end of the month the patient was confined to his bed.

"He showed signs of a speech impediment and being unable to swallow. He died on 3 January 1943 from what seemed to be hypostatic pneumonia and cardiac arrest."

What the neurologist recorded in medical terms was the death sentence for many of the prisoners. When they discovered that it was the food which was poisoning them, they preferred to go hungry than to eat the pea soup.

Dr Kessler complained to the camp command, warning of the danger to the inmates' lives, and got the reply: "What makes you think we are concerned about the lives of these people?"

When in 1943, just before Wapniarka was liberated, the diet was changed it was too late. Those who did not die of lathyrism carried the poison in their bodies.

Frau Petersen said: "The frightful thing about the illness is that in many cases, it only emerges after 10 to 12 years. Many inmates hoped they had escaped infection. Their hopes were not well founded."

There were prisoners who were so weak and crippled when they were freed from the camp that they had to be transported on small hand-carts.

But even those who escaped in an apparently healthy condition felt the first symptoms years later. Usually it began with difficulty in walking and in the end they were sick with lathyrism, confined to a wheel-chair for the rest of their lives.

In some cases the nerve poison from the peas affected the hearing and sight in addition to the paralysis in the arms and legs.

Frau Petersen has no medical training but over the past 30 years she has collected many details about this incurable disease. She first got to know about Wapniarka and the concentration camp victims on a visit to Israel in 1959.

Frau Petersen was born in 1904. Her father was a director of an iron and steel works in Siegerland. In 1920 the family moved to Dillenburg, where she got to know Jews.

She worked as bookkeeper at a bookshop — until she could no longer bear selling the books which by the mid-1930s were the only titles bookshops were permitted to sell.

In 1948 she began to write for the Dillenburg pages of the local newspaper *Wetzlarer Neue Zeitung*. After the war she wanted to do something "to make up for German guilt in a small way at least."

She wanted to go to Israel but it was not until 1959 that her wish was unexpectedly granted.

By accident she heard that a woman, who during the Third Reich had worked as teacher at a secondary school in Israel and later, because of an eye ailment, had returned to Germany, intended to visit Isael with a small group of women. The twelfth place, the last one, was available for Frau Petersen.

The group included Hilda Heinemann, the wife of Gustav Heinemann, who later became federal president, but who in 1959 was an SPD member of the Bundestag. When the group stopped in Haifa, Hilda Heinemann got to know a Norwegian pastor, Magnus Solheim. A couple of Wapniarka victims lived in his parish.

The pastor possessed a file full of letters and petitions from Wapniarka victims, documents which sought, in vain, to get appropriate compensation from the German authorities.

There were many reasons why the authorities rejected these petitions for help. Since science was aware of the toxic effects of the lathyrus peas, feeding the inmates of Wapniarka solely with them could not be regarded as "medical experiments".

Then since the consequences of eating them only appeared years later, the victims, many through no fault of their own, had neglected to make application for aid within the time limit.

And even when applications were made within the appropriate time most of the Wapniarka victims were Romanians and were not covered by compensation legislation applicable to regions of the German language and culture.

Frau Petersen said: "That's something I could never understand. A criminal act is not changed because its victims did not speak German."

It is uncertain still who gave the orders to feed the concentration camp inmates with the lathyrus peas. This was an important consideration for the officials handling compensation claims.

Was it the Romanian military authorities who were in command at Wapniarka, or the Germans who had ordered the Romanians to run the camp?

The relatively small number of victims of Nazi crime victims from an almost unknown concentration camp did not have a lobby in Bonn — but they got a tireless spokeswoman when Frau Petersen, on the ship returning from Haifa, leafed through the documents which Hilda Heinemann had been given by Pastor Solheim.

When the women who had travelled to Israel had a reunion in Bad Godesberg, Frau Petersen learned that an attempt to do something for the Wapniarka victims by Gustav Heinemann in Bonn had not got very far.

The women agreed that something had to be done, but Hilda Heinemann was retiring and did not like appearing in public. So she said to Frau Petersen, the journalist from Dillenburg: "My dear, you can talk and you are just the person to take this on. Take over the campaign to help."

Frau Petersen knew that the single payment of DM5,000, which the Wapniarka victims were given from the Bonn budget at the end of the 1950s as compensation, was just a symbolic payment and did little for people, incurably sick, who, as they got older and whose immobilisation got ever worse, needed nursing.

So Frau Petersen set to work raising money from all over the Federal Republic to be able to help the victims privately, where the state failed to offer help.

She wrote newspaper articles about the forgotten victims of Wapniarka. She travelled from one end of the country to the other giving lectures in church and community halls, recruiting new supporters for her aid campaign.

She turned to church organisations and companies to plead for money "deductable against tax liability) for her charity.

She has about 2,000 donors in her files at present, and year after year, at Christmas, the people on her files get a friendly begging letter from Dillenburg, typed on an old machine, the same typewriter Frau Petersen still uses to type out her articles for the local newspaper.

She has beaten the big drum for the victims of Wapniarka for 30 years, and year after year she has collected money to be able to pay a small monthly pension to the 180 surviving victims of Wapniarka living in Israel.

She said: "My contributors are surprised that the number of the people we care for does not get fewer. It is also true that some of them die, but there are always new victims appearing. There are people who have developed the illness, and many who could work until now but cannot do so any longer. There are also people emigrating from Romania or Russia to Israel — and every year there are people among them who were at Wapniarka."

Since the demands made on her charity have increased over the past year by DM170,000, Frau Petersen has had to draw on her reserves.

It is true that within the space of a year extraordinary expenses have trebled in volume, which, as she herself says, has cost her a few sleepless nights.

But her confidence remains unbroken, for she has always got the money which she needs somehow from some source.

Gustav Heinemann must have had in mind her irresistible, friendly doggedness when he said of her: "She is the greatest mendicant of the century." Such a compliment from the former president pays honour to Charlotte Petersen, just as much as the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal, which will be presented to her by the Co-ordination Council of Christian-Jewish Cooperation in the Week of Brotherhood 1990.

Friedrich W. Husemann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 10 June 1989)

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his office, dozens of architects work at the same time on many projects. The firm has been busy outside Chicago as well. There seems to be no shortage of developers wanting buildings.

The idea of using a Jahn design as a commercially exploitable monument has even reached Germany. In Frankfurt, the country's first skyscraper is being built — the 256-metre Messe-Turm (Exhibition Tower), the highest tower in Germany. And in Mannheim, the Mannheimer Versicherungs-Gruppe (insurance group) has had Jahn design a headquarters in a 70 million mark project. Work is planned to start this year on the building on an edge-of-city site opposite the present headquarters. The building will be in stepped form up to 16 floors and will house 800 employees.

Thomas Manckeldpa

(Mannheimer Morgen, 10 June 1989)